Glad Tidings

"And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers…" (Acts 13:32)

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Avoiding Our Journey Becoming A Wandering

(Jerry Fite)

What a modern- day blessing is the Global Positioning system. Just open up your GPS, enter your intended destination, submit your information, and relax. From your present location, you have before you all the moves you need to make until you arrive at your destination. No more wandering around town trying to find an address. No more need for a printout with confusing lines and arrows charting your way. Yes, today's GPS is a blessing, helping avoid any journey becoming an endless wandering.

Christians enter the unique and straitened way that leads to eternal life in Heaven *(Matthew 7:14).* We are not in a mechanical vehicle with a steering wheel that forces each turn. We are in a body, directed by the mind, which can turn aside without a moment's notice. The renewed mind of the Christian must be honed in on the things that are above in order to reach our heavenly destination *(cf. Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2-4).*

The inspired writer of Hebrews exhorts us to not miss our heavenly destination by giving us an example of a whole generation of Israelites whose promising journey ended in hopeless wandering *(Hebrews 3:17-4:11).* Their problem was a faith problem that needs examining.

The land for Israel to inherit was promised to Abraham hundreds of years before it was time for God's people to enter *(Genesis 13:14-15).* God did not just say "I will give" it, but wrapping his words in a covenantal promise He said, "Unto thy seed have I given this land..." *(Genesis 15:18).* A strong faith is a *"penetrating faith."* They needed a faith that could penetrate through the clouds of time and rest their faith in God who fulfills His promises.

But they also lacked a penetrating faith that could pierce through barriers clearly seen by the chosen spies. They reported that the cities were many and fortified. The people are stronger than we are, and we can attest to seeing giants. We see ourselves as grasshoppers by our own comparisons, and conclude it must be true in their sight. Yes, the land is bountiful, flowing with milk and honey, but in reality, we cannot focus on the object of our faith, God, because we cannot see past the formidable barriers.

We cannot blame Moses for sending the spies to come back with specific information regarding what they saw. God commanded the spies to be sent to spy out the land, reminding them again that it was the land *"which I give unto the children of Israel" (Numbers 13:2).* We must have a faith that can survive the testing by an inwardly perspective God.

The spies needed courageous faith in bringing back samples of the abundant fruit *(Numbers 13:20).* But their courage was overcome by fear. Their fear led to the self-induced anxiety of falling by the sword, leaving their wives and little children as prey *(Numbers 14:3).*

What stands out in the mind of God is His people lacked an *"obedient"* faith. Their unbelief led them to disobey God, and fail to possess the land He had promised. *"To whom sware He that they should not enter His rest, but to them that were disobedient? (Hebrews 13:18).* Then comes the following, *"And we see that they were unable to enter in because of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:19).* We must have the heart of a Caleb, who had a different spirit within him, *"...he hath followed Me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went..." (Numbers 14:24).*

Check your faith. Are you still on track for the destination of Heaven?