



Numbers 13 (NIV)

²⁶ They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ They

gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and **it does flow with milk and honey!** Here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

³⁰ Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

14 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴ And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

In the presence of Christ, we have gathered.

In the grace of Christ, we depart.

May God clothe you with power on high.

May God put this power to work in each of us.



FAITH that Goes Beyond

We are surrounded by insurmountable opportunity

Focuses on the VISION instead of the OBSTACLES

Caleb said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” v30

Vision is the ability to see God’s **PLAN**, God’s **PRESENCE**, God’s **POWER** despite the obstacles.

Confronts our FEARS instead of Running from them

Faith is not faith if it doesn’t move you to ACTION

The Church is not just a picture of what was or security against what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves; a call to become something more.

Trusts God’s POWER instead of our RESOURCES

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

I believe God can and will do this.

“Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous.” Joshua 1:5b-6a ESV

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living Hebrews 11:1 (Msg)

Will we rise up to the challenge or be reduced to insects.

¹⁸And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. Hebrews 3:18-19

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he **exists** and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Exodus 3:8

So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, **a land flowing with milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

Persistent Convictions (Reason)

Jesus is calling us to Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

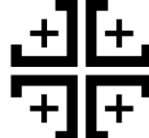
“He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.” (Isaiah 53:4)

[Matthew 8:16-17]

“Faith is the conviction that God knows more than we do about this life and He will get us through it.” — Max Lucado

When fear shapes our lives, safety becomes our god. When safety becomes our god, we worship the risk-free life. Can the safety lover do anything great? Can the risk-averse accomplish noble deeds? For God? For others? No. The fear-filled cannot love deeply; love is risky. They cannot give to the poor. Benevolence has no guarantee of return. The fear-filled cannot dream wildly. What if their dreams sputter and fall from the sky? The worship of safety emasculates greatness. No wonder Jesus wages such a war against fear. {Max Lucado, Fearless}

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. —Mark Twain

SACRED  JOURNEY