

DOUBTING

It's All in Your Mind...Attitude is Everything (Part 7)

Doubt – is the lack of confidence or assurance that God will keep His promises.

- **Provide** – Philippians 4:19 (NASB)
- **Protect** – Isaiah 54:17 (NASB)
- **Prosper** – Psalm 84:11 (NASB)

HOW TO REPLACE A DOUBTING ATTITUDE:

I. **GOD PLACES REGULAR TESTS OF FAITH IN FRONT OF HIS CHILDREN.**

²¹ 'See, the Lord your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.' ... ²⁶ 'Yet you were not willing to go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God;' ... ³² 'But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God,' Deuteronomy 1:21, 26, 32 (NASB)

⁴¹ Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, ² 'Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them.'" Numbers 13:1-2 (NASB)

- **That was their test—what is yours?**

II. **THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE WILL EITHER SHRINK OR STRETCH YOUR FAITH.**

- **"The purpose of the test is not just to reveal your faith but to refine your faith."**

⁴⁷ When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, 'Go up there into the Negev; then go up into the hill country. ¹⁸ See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. ¹⁹ How is the land in which they live, is it good or bad? And how are the cities in which they live, are they like open camps or with fortifications? ²⁰ How is the land, is it fat or lean? Are there trees in it or not? Make an effort then to get some of the fruit of the land.' Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes." Numbers 13:17-20 (NASB)

²⁹ 'Then I said to you, "Do not be shocked, nor fear them.

³⁰ The Lord your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes,

³¹ and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place." ³² But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God,'" Deut. 1:29-32 (NASB)

III. **DOUBT SEES THE OBSTACLES, FAITH SEES THE OPPORTUNITIES.**

²⁵ When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, ²⁶ they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel ... ²⁷ Thus they told him, and said, 'We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan.'" Num. 13:25, 26a, 27-29 (NASB)

²⁰ Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, 'We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.'

³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, 'We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.'" Num. 13:30-31 (NASB)

Five Disguises of Doubt:

- Fear**
- Anxiety**
- Anger**
- Withdrawal**
- Bitterness**

IV. **WHEN SURROUNDED BY DOUBTERS, DOUBTING COMES EASILY.**

⁴¹ Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. ² All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron;" Numbers 14:1-2a (NASB)

Why is Doubting Easy?

- Doubting is contagious**
- Doubting is passive**
- Doubting satisfies our tendency toward self-protection**
- Doubters are easier to find than friends of faith**

V. **IT IS A SHORT JOURNEY FROM DOUBT TO DESPAIR.**

² ... and the whole congregation said to them, 'Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?' ⁴ So they said to one another, 'Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.'" Numbers 14:2b-4 (NASB)

- **Desperate plans come from despairing hearts.**

Three Questions:

- ❖ **Am I a doubting person?**
- ❖ **Am I reaping the consequences in my relationship with God?**
- ❖ **Am I willing to repent?**