

Grasshopper Faith - cont.

something like submitting to baptism and the plan of salvation. It could be following the authorized work, worship, and organization of the local church only. It could be purity in living. It could be practicing an exclusive New Testament Christianity without denominationalism.

The question is: What kind of faith do we exhibit when faced with such giants? Is our faith “great” (Matthew 8:10; 15:28), or “little” (Matthew 6:30; 8:26)? Do we follow God (Numbers 13:30; 14:24), or our feelings? Do we combine hearing with obedient faith in our journey to our “rest” land (Hebrews 4:1-2, 11)? Or, do we have a “grasshopper faith” that never makes it?

Friends, with the right kind of faith, we can make it to heaven. We have God’s strength and help in addition to our own faith (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13, 19; Hebrews 13:5-6). God will help us face our giants. We should have a victor’s attitude (Romans 8:31-37; Revelation 6:2; 15:2), not a defeatist attitude. We will not have spiritual success without God (Luke 12:20-21; 16:19ff). So, let’s go up together with him and take the land!
- Chris Reeves -

- Scripture of the Week -

“And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.”
- 2 Samuel 6:7 -

Let us never forget that the Lord is angry with us when we err in obeying his word. We do not want to face the Lord’s anger and punishment in the judgment day.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Grasshopper Faith

When the Old Testament people of Israel left Egypt, they faced great challenges travelling to Canaan land (Exodus 12 – Numbers 14). They had to learn to trust God and put their faith in him all along the way. Speaking of the Lord, Moses said to Israel:

“And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by everything that proceedeth out of the mouth of Jehovah doth man live”
- Deuteronomy 8:3 -

One of Israel’s greatest struggles while in the wilderness was one of faith vs. flesh. Would Israel have faith in the Lord’s word and do what he said, or would they just follow what they felt and what they wanted to do?

One classic example of this struggle came when the Israelites were on the southern border of Canaan and they were told by the Lord to spy out the land. Twelve spies were chosen to spy out the land. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, returned and told the people that they all could go up and conquer the land with the Lord’s help. But the other 10 spies brought an evil re-

port and convinced the Israelites that they could not go up and conquer the land because of the giants there.

Unfortunately, the Israelites believed the 10 spies and murmured against the Lord. As a result, the Lord punished them and made them to wander in the wilderness (Numbers 13:2,20,30; 14:8,11,24; Psalm 106:24). One thing the 10 spies said to the people was this:



And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who come of the Nephilim: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight
- Numbers 13:33 -

This statement of the 10 spies has become known as “grasshopper faith”. Their faith in the Lord and themselves was small like a grasshopper. They believed themselves to be like grasshoppers compared to the giants. They did not believe in the power of the Lord to help them conquer the giants. They did not see with the eye of faith, but with the eye of the flesh.

People today have the same problem. They do not have faith in God’s word, they simply walk by the flesh. Consider

some of the characteristics of a fleshly approach to life taken from Numbers 13 and 14. *A fleshly approach to life ...*

- Measures difficulties by human strength alone (13:30-32).
- Follows popular opinion (13:33).
- Causes sorrow and sadness (14:1-2).
- Despises the provisions of God (14:3-4).
- Comes from rebellion and fear (14:4-10).
- Dishonors God by refusing to believe (14:11-12; see Exodus 3:8).
- Results in sin (14:13-19).
- Makes a habit of disobedience (14:20-25).
- Incurs the wrath and rejection of God (14:26-38).
- Presumes to succeed without God (14:39-45).

Just like the Israelites of old, we all face giants challenges today. It could be