

CHOOSING THE VOICES THAT YOU LISTEN TO

RC BLAKES

NUMBERS 13:30 - 14:1 KJV

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. 1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

1. MOST PEOPLE FOLLOW THE MAJORITY OPINION

The Israelites' reaction demonstrates how easily the crowd is swayed, especially when fear and doubt are voiced loudly. Despite Caleb and Joshua's encouragement rooted in faith, the majority's fear dominated the community's response.

Proverbs 14:12 NIV

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

EXODUS 23:2 NIV

Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 NIV

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Famous Quote: "The majority is often wrong." — George Bernard

Shaw

People tend to follow what the majority believes or fears, but biblical wisdom cautions us to seek God's perspective rather than the crowd's consensus. Faith requires courage to stand apart from the popular and often flawed opinions of society.

2. NEGATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS

The negative report from the ten spies spread fear and discouragement among the Israelites, leading to rebellion and loss of faith. Negativity can spread rapidly, especially when people focus on obstacles instead of God's promises.

NUMBERS 13:32-33 NIV

And they gave Israel a bad report of the land they had explored... We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.

DEUTERONOMY 1:28 NIV

Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, 'The people are stronger and taller than we are, the cities are larger and fortified up to heaven.

PSALM 34:13-14 NIV

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies... Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

"Watch your thoughts, for they will become actions. Watch your actions, for they'll become... habits. Watch your habits, for they will forge your character. Watch your character, for it will determine your destiny." — Frank Outlaw

Negativity is contagious, often infecting the entire community and leading to despair. As believers, we are called to speak and think positively—aligned with God's promises—rather than succumbing to fear or spreading discouragement.

3. THE VOICES WE LISTEN TO SHOULD ECHO GOD'S ORIGINAL WORD

Caleb and Joshua's faith was rooted in God's promise, contrasting sharply with the fearful voices of the majority. The lesson is to discern which voices we heed—those aligned with God's truth and faithfulness.

ISAIAH 55:11 NIV

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

ROMANS 10:17 NIV

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

JOSHUA 1:9 NIV

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.

(God's promise to Joshua underscores the importance of trusting His Word over fear.)

"God's Word is the final authority and the ultimate reality." — Rick Warren

Our faith must be rooted in God's Word, which is unchangeable and true. Listening to voices that echo God's promises enables us to stand firm in faith, even when circumstances seem daunting. Caleb and Joshua exemplified this trust, which led to victory.

The story of the spies teaches us that trusting in God's promises is vital, and we must be discerning about whom we listen to. While the majority might lean toward fear and negativity, believers are called to stand on God's truth and faithfulness.

As Oswald Chambers said, "Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God whose word and promise are sure."

Choosing to listen to God's voice over the crowd's negativity can lead us into victory and fulfillment of His promises, just as Caleb and Joshua experienced. Conversely, following the majority into doubt may cause us to miss God's best for our lives.