



GRACE CHURCH

Message Notes

How to Develop a Persevering Faith

Testing Faith — You know God can turn your situation around, but it hasn't happened yet

When the Israelites were taking the promised land, the first generation failed because they lacked faith, while the second generation succeeded because of their faith

Numbers 13:32-33 NLT — "...they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. ³³We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

Fear is a thief that will take from you what God intends for you to possess

If you don't want what God wants you to have, He will find someone else to give it to

Joshua 2:24 NLT — "The Lord has given us the whole land," they said, "for all the people in the land are terrified of us."

The first generation said "We can't do it". The second generation said "God has already given us the land."

What did the second generation do differently?

1). They developed an unshakable conviction that God was trustworthy in every situation

Deuteronomy 2:7 NLT — "...During these forty years, the Lord your God has been with you, and you have lacked nothing."

Psalms 37:25 NLT — "Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread."

2). They were obedient to God's commands and instructions

Joshua 1:7 NLT — "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do."

Godly obedience will always take you out of your comfort zone

Miracles take place when you obey God and step out in faith, even when nothing appears to have changed.

3). They did their part while trusting God to do His.

Whatever you are facing, God wants you to move all the way through it

Put your faith into motion, and God will do the rest

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have any practical ways you normally fight fear when you feel it creeping in your mind?
2. Has your expression of your fears ever taken on the form of complaining about God?
3. Have you ever been through a time where you feel you might have missed what God wanted to give us, because fear might have overwhelmed your faith?
4. Pastor Ken mentioned that the second generation of Israelites grew such a persevering faith because they developed an unshakable conviction that God was trustworthy in every situation. Is it difficult or easy for you to believe that God is trustworthy in every situation? Why do you feel that way?
5. What are some miracles that you have seen God do in your life, big or small, that you can look back on to help build your faith?