

"Living by Faith"

Part 2

Numbers 13-14

Introduction: Last week in our study we were looking at the need to exercise faith. We looked at what is happening in our world today with the Coronavirus and considered how the stage is being set for the coming kingdom of the Anti-Christ. There are many RADICAL changes taking place, there is a major push for a Global economy, and there is the discussion of personal tracking. These are all things which will be implemented in the Tribulation.

Daniel 7:25

²⁵ And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 7:23

²³ Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

Revelation 13:16-17

¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

We are seeing evidence of all of this being set up in our day.

Now, we also considered how the Anti-Christ cannot come to power until the church is Raptured away.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-7

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

This is information which we know but what we do not know is when the Rapture will happen. It could be today, or it could be many years down the road. If it is years down the road then we need to be prepared because the further our world moves toward Satan's kingdom the more difficult life may become for believers.

It is very possible that the church will go through a time of testing before the Rapture and if that happens, we need to be PREPARED.

I spoke with someone this past week who has friends who are missionaries in China and the last time they were home they made a very interesting observation about the church in the United States of America. They said, ***"The church in America is completely unprepared for any kind of difficulty."***

I would say much of that is due to the lack of teaching and the influx of entertainment. There are many who go to church because they are looking to be entertained and they have very little desire for the Truth of God's Word and so they seek out a place where they can get what they want. Little Bible teaching and mostly entertainment.

It is my desire to feed you from the Word of God so as to prepare you for whatever the days ahead hold.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

² *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

³ *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

1 John 2:14

¹⁴ *I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.*

It is the Word of God that strengthens us for what lies ahead.

Now if the Lord tarries we can be sure that one thing which is going to be required of us is faith. The Lord expects us to live by faith as we wait upon His return.

Hebrews 10:37-38

³⁷ *For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*

³⁸ *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

The believers who Peter wrote to were under severe persecution for their faith and I want you to notice what Peter wrote:

1 Peter 1:6-7

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Last week we were looking at Numbers 13-14 and it is in this text we are looking at the importance of faith. Israel had been wandering for about two years since they left Egypt and in Numbers 13, they had arrived at Kadesh Barnia. God had brought them here to enter the land of Canaan. But there was a problem. Moses had sent out twelve spies and they were gone for 40 days. When they returned Joshua and Caleb returned with great anticipation of watching God work as they entered the land, but the other ten spies returned in fear. They delivered a negative report to Israel and it frightened the people to the point that they refused to trust the Lord for protection.

Notice Numbers 13:30-33

The people then stayed focused upon the negative report all night and in the morning, they were determined not to enter the land, but instead to return to Egypt. They had forgotten how the hand of God had provided for them in Egypt and in the two years of traveling.

Application:

If the Lord tarries there are going to be circumstances which we face that are going to require faith. We must be so careful about two things:

1. Forgetting the Mighty hand of God. We have all the Bible to look to.

2. Focusing upon the challenge and not on God.

I. The Consequences of NOT Walking by Faith.

1. Lost opportunity

Notice Numbers 14:5-10

Joshua and Caleb had the faith that was needed to follow God into Canaan and when they expressed their faith the people wanted to stone them to death. There is an important point here:

a. **When we walk by faith there are going to be some people who will do their best to discourage us.**

This is to be expected. Satan will use whoever he can to stop us from walking by faith because it is our faith that glorifies our Lord.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Notice Numbers 14:21-35

This consequence was devastating! All the men from 20 years old and upward would die over the next 38 years. Let me show you how many men would die.

Numbers 1:19, 45-46

¹⁹ As the LORD commanded Moses, so he numbered them in the wilderness of Sinai.

⁴⁵ So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel;

⁴⁶ Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty.

Over the next 38 years 603, 550 men would die. That is 15,883 per year, 1,324 per month, and 44 men per day which is about 2 men per hour. These men would not make it to Canaan.

Notice Numbers 14:36-45

Let us not miss the lesson here. When God places an open door before us it will not stay open forever.

2. No rest.

Hebrews 4:1-3, 6

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

² *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

³ *For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

⁶ *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*

Conclusion:

Israel failed to enter into their rest because of unbelief.

God has a rest for us in this life also but without faith you and I will never enter in. This rest is enjoyed when we walk by faith regardless of what we face. We must trust God and lean upon Him. If the Lord tarries there are going to be trying times ahead. We must expect our faith to be tested. The testing works as a refining for it burns away the dross from our lives.

2 Timothy 1:7

⁷ *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*