

August 6, 2024

Break the Temptation to Fear

Shalom,

All Scripture is God-breathed and is valuable for teaching the truth, convicting of sin, correcting faults and training in right living... (2 Timothy 3:16 CJB)

The Torah portion for this week is called *Devarim*, or “**Words**” in the Hebrew Bible, or **Deuteronomy** in English translations. This parasha is found in **Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22**, and, in its words, Moses was prompted by the Holy Spirit to recall for all Israel many of the events that had happened up to that point that had brought them to the time just prior to their crossing the Jordan to take possession of their God-given inheritance.

YHWH was drawing the attention of Israel to the results of fear and unbelief, and the generation that was hearing His Words could recall that their fathers, the previous generation, had all died in the wilderness **without receiving the promise** that God had willed for them. Notice, however, that God is not giving this teaching for the purpose of condemnation. Instead, He is **causing them to remember that bad choices yield bad consequences and reminding them that to hear His Word and believe it was the way to victory, not only in the present, but for all eternity.**

*For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea. They all were immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink—for they were drinking from a Spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Messiah. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, for **they were struck down in the desert.*** (1 Corinthians 10:1-5 TLV)

This history lesson vividly shows that trusting God is not based upon our efforts. It is in receiving and believing the Word as taught by the Holy Spirit, and recognizing that our God has chosen each of us **to abide in Him** to accomplish His plans and purposes, to carry us through impossible circumstances and to meet every need for as long as it takes, and He will take us right on through to the greatest victory ever known.

Now these things happened as examples for us, so we wouldn't crave evil things, just as they did. (1 Corinthians 10:6 TLV)

The Word of God reminds us to remember what He has done, in the past, when His people trusted Him. **He never changes!** What He has promised, will surely happen.

When we remember the past, in this way, it is in fact a part of hearing and hearing of the Word of God that produces trust in those who continue to truly hear. **As we hear His covenant, we see and remember that God cannot fail, and we will never fail when we abide in Him.**

*Now these things happened to them **as an example**, and **it was written down as a warning to us**—on whom the ends of the ages have come. (1 Corinthians 10:11 TLV)*

*... and likewise in the desert, where you saw how ADONAI **your God carried you, like a man carries his child, along the entire way you traveled** until you arrived at this place. (Deuteronomy 1:31 CJB)*

If these words were recorded for us as an example and a warning, we would do well to heed them, carefully, and take them to heart so that we not become careless and casual in our relationship with God and His mighty Word.

Therefore let the one who thinks that he stands watch out that he doesn't fall. No temptation has taken hold of you except what is common to mankind. But God is faithful—He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can handle. But with the temptation **He will also provide a way of escape, so you will be able to endure it.** (1 Corinthians 10:12-13 TLV)

All that Israel experienced that prompted so many to rebel and turn away from God's promises are a manifestation of temptations that all of us may experience, and just as they were required to remain a people of faith, so, each of us must overcome when we are tempted to compromise our trust. The great and wonderful message is this: **You can trust in the faithfulness of God to build you up in those trying times and to show you His way of escaping the fear and negative emotions that cause many to fall away. If you choose to trust Him, He will always make you victorious.**

Living by trusting,
Terry

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