

## Spiritual Preparation

We are aware that your mission experience through Camp Tipton will be a life-changing experience encounter with God for some in your team. Our desire for each of you is that you will be inspired to renew your whole-hearted passion for Christ as Lord through a fresh encounter with His Spirit.; that you will become informed regarding mission opportunities and techniques; and that you will respond to His calling on your life to become involved in your local mission field.

As a person who seeks Christ and strives to know Him – His Person, His purpose, and His power in and over me, I realize and am acutely aware of my own inadequacies and shortcomings. Yet, because of His everlasting love, His eternal purpose, and His eternal faithfulness, He chooses each day to abide with me as I yield myself to the conforming power and influence of His Spirit through His Word.

As I was listening to His Spirit speak through His Word – Deuteronomy 1 – this morning, He brought several truths to my attention.

Some observations that stood out to me in this chapter include the following:

1. Israel was given a time-limited window of opportunity to express their faith in God by confidently entering the promised land.
2. Israel saw the promised land and “tasted” its fruit, but did not immediately go in and possess that which the Lord promised.
3. Israel's lack of trust resulted in a loss of opportunity.
4. Israel later “admitted” their sin, but the Scripture does not indicate they “repented”.
5. Israel tried to fabricate a victory apart from God.
6. God allowed the nation to experience the consequences of their own decision, yet preserved, prospered and empowered Caleb and Joshua for their faithfulness.

What interpretation can you glean from these observations? Here are a few suggestions:

1. We all have some time-limited opportunities in life through which we express our trust in the Father.
2. We may “taste” the fruit of God's provision prior to actually taking possession of this promise.
3. “Admitting” our sin is not necessarily repentance.
4. We cannot make a victory happen apart from God.
5. God rewards faithful individuals. We can partner to be on mission this summer, but our failure to achieve His purposes is guaranteed unless we cooperate with the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts.
6. Caleb and Joshua were weak and flawed just like us, but they also chose to be faithful. God chose to bless them, to manifest Himself to them, and to lead others through them because they made a decision to trust Him. How will He work in and through you as you respond to His call to walk in faith as you approach the day of your mission experience through Camp Tipton?

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