

Press on in Faith

Scripture

“So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, ‘If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?’ So they said to one another, ‘Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.’” (Nu 14:1-4 NKJV)

Devotion

The spies had returned from the land of promise and gave a bad report to the people. They spoke from fear and told the people that giants lived in the land and the Israelites were like grasshoppers compared to them.

When the people heard the report, they complained against Moses and Aaron, and ultimately the Lord wishing they had never left Egypt. God then gave them their wish. Only it was their former wish not their latter: “If only we had died in the wilderness!” Over the next 40 years God killed off everyone of that generation over twenty years of age save Joshua and Caleb.

As believers we should never look back to Egypt. I don’t think true believers consciously ever look back. That is to say they wished they had never followed Christ. However, when we sin it is a kind of looking back or maybe better said, yielding to our old ways. It is practical unbelief when we give up on God. To think that He is not able to deliver us from temptation is like fearing the giants in the land.

The Scriptures clearly teach, “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God [is] faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear [it].” (1Co 10:13 NKJV)

The problem is we sometimes don’t look for the way of escape. We would rather complain about our situation than trust God. This is a grievous sin. We must not yield to the temptation to blame God for our failures. We should not become distraught because we are not perfect, but we better be repentant and willing to confess our failures. This is the only way to find victory. We must press on in faith!

The Christian life is not easy. That is why Christ said “. . . If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” (Mt 16:24-25 NKJV)

There undoubtedly will be temptations today. Set your mind right now to seek your way of escape. Very often it is simply turning away. Sometimes it is holding your tongue, or saying a quick prayer. However, the victory is often won before you ever leave your home. Without the preparation of your soul, without ammunition, what chance do you have? Make it your habit to feed on the precious Word of God before you ever face the enemy.

“Blessed [is] the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (Jas 1:12 NKJV)

