

Life is constantly presenting each of us with numerous opportunities

Numbers 13:20b The Message

It's not too difficult to "see" one of these little babies, but it can be quite a different story to have the intestinal fortitude to "seize" an opportunity when it comes knocking on our door. Let's face it. Even though we often enjoy the thrill and excitement of stepping out into the realm of the unknown, most of us, at one point in time or another, have experienced the stop-you-dead-in-your-tracks fright that living on the edge can produce, as well.

There are a great number of people who have mistakenly assumed that "fear" is some type of a sin. They are under the false impression that if they admittedly experience any type of fear that their trust-o-meter will cause them to fall out of graces with their Heavenly Father. Every one of us, however, who boldly take the leap of faith and attempt to achieve the greatness that we've been destined to accomplish will come face to face with some pretty intense fears. God's plans for our lives are always much bigger than we are ourselves. He isn't leading us into a recreation room, but onto a battlefield. If we pursue the plans and purposes of God we our bound to, sooner or later, have a collision with fear itself. It's not "if" but "when."

"When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go own. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end_ because I am your God." (Isaiah 43) Notice that Isaiah said, "When," and not "If." "When you're in over your head." "When you're in rough waters." "When you're between a rock and a hard place." The road that God leads us upon is not intended to be free from challenges. As a matter of fact, we're actually guaranteed to see some sights that have the potential to scare the bagebers out of us! I'm not attempting to scare you I'm attempting to prepare you!

Remember the twelve spies who were sent out to investigate the possibilities awaiting the people of God in the Promise Land? Ten of those good old boys couldn't muster up the courage to possess their promise. All they could see were walled cities and really big obstacles standing in their way. The more they looked around the more negative they became. It wasn't long before they were describing themselves to each other instead of defining the properties that they had been sent in to look at. Then, there were the other two! These two weren't nearly as impressed by the size of the giants in the land as they were with the size of the grapes! They were totally convinced that God had led them to a good land and that He had also empowered them to possess it.

Isn't it this latter of the two attitudes that you and I need to develop in our own lives? We need to realize that our God is more than able to provide us with the strength, power and wisdom to handle whatever situations that we face. We haven't ended up where we're at by happenstance. We're being led by the Spirit of God and God isn't going to lead us into failure. He's leading us into victory.

Yes, great victory demands great battle. However, we're not left defenseless out on that battlefield. We're not only equipped by God, but we're also accompanied by God.

Never forget that we are more than able to take the land! The grapes of God's blessing are never placed within our mouth, but they are always placed within our reach. Let's strive to overcome our fears and to rise up and go in and possess the good land that God has given to us. The High Life requires our involvement. It doesn't come without opposition, but it's definitely worth every effort.

You walk with the blessing of God resting heavily upon your life. Fear not! Just go for it! What are you waiting for?

We believe in you! Pastors Thom and Shelby.

