

DOES IT MATTER?

We are living a unique moment in the history of this city. We can see it in the change of the atmosphere around us, God is bringing transformation and restoration and the hearts of people are repenting and getting ready to lay down everything before Him. (Dreams, plans, resources, etc.)

Therefore, we can say with all confidence that the Lord has His eyes upon this city and His dreams are becoming a reality.

In the book of Acts we can see that the Holy Spirit brought together Jews and non-Jews into a multi-cultural body - the Church - united and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Now we can see the evidence of God doing it again, because when HE promises something, HE fulfills His Promise.

2 Corinthians 1:20 New Living Translation (NLT)

²⁰ For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory.

The Lord promised the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28 New Living Translation (NLT)

*²⁸ "Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.*

Are you seeing His promise or are you living His promises right now?

KNOWLEDGE OR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - DOES IT MATTER?

Ephesians 1:18 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.

Ephesus was a big city and the epicenter of worship for most of the Greek and Roman gods. For two years Paul had a very effective missionary presence there and many people became followers of Jesus.

In the letter of Ephesians, Paul prays that the followers of Jesus will not just know about but to personally experience the power of the Gospel.

The story of the Gospel should affect every single part of our life story (personally, neighborhood, community, family).

Ephesians 4 New Living Translation (NLT)

*Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead **a life worthy of your calling**, for you have been called by God.*

²*Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.*

³*Make every effort to keep yourselves **united in the Spirit**, binding yourselves together with peace. ⁴For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.*

Do we just like this message or are we carrying it wherever we go?

Gospel – Good news – Evangelium - Evangelio

Psalms 96:2-3 New International Version (NIV)

²*Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

³*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*

Isaiah 40:9 New International Version (NIV)

⁹*You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.*

*You who bring good news to Jerusalem,^[a]
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”*

Do we just like this message (salvation) or are we proclaiming it in whatever we do?

SPECTATORS OR PARTICIPANTS IN GOD'S BATTLE - DOES IT MATTER?

Deuteronomy 1:36 New International Version (NIV)

³⁶ *except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”*

Let's go back to the Old Testament and put this scripture in context.

As we know, after wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, the people of Israel came finally to the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River opposite Jericho.

Remember, God promised Israel to rescue them and bring them up to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 3:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸ *So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.*

It is interesting that God promised them a good and spacious land but also He told them who their enemies were.

Do we know who our enemies are? Does it matter?

Ephesians 6:12 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹² *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

If Israel was going to inherit the land, they had to be obedient and trust in God's commands.

Same rules apply to the Church today because:

- Our battle is not determined by what we think or we believe is against us
- Our battle in the world is determined by what is against God.
- Spectators like to come to church and see God moving.
- Participants are fighting God's battle. They ARE the Church.

Canaanites – Moral corruption (Leviticus 18) and child sacrifice (Deuteronomy 12:29 – 31). This sounds very similar to the world today. *(We are sacrificing our children if we are not fighting against what is not from God in our lives, because if we are fighting against the world and winning – in Christ - we will raise them in the way they should go).*

So, I NEED to ask myself these three questions:

- **Am I a participant in God’s battle and promises?**
- **Do I live in confidence and hope of His vision, dreams and promises?**
- **Am I living a life worthy of his calling and promises?**

Or maybe,

- I am just watching God move around me but not in me.
- We don’t understand that weather I believe it (yet) or not, He has called me and called YOU too.

NATURAL OR SUPERNATURAL – DOES IT MATTER?

Moses sent twelve spies to recognize the land of Canaan, one man of each tribe. Two of them saw what God wanted to show to all of them.

Only 2 men out of the 12 spies were able to see the promise in Exodus 3:8.

This means that around 83% of the spies did not have clear vision of what God wanted them to see.

A study made in October 2019 says that 82% of young adults say that society is in a **leadership crisis**, and part of it is the underlying sense of anxiety that permeates many societies today.

Anxiety is your body’s **natural** response to stress. It’s a feeling of fear about what’s to come.

Psalm 34:4 Amplified Bible (AMP)

*I sought the LORD [on the **authority of His word**], and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.*

Psalm 121 New International Version (NIV)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the **Maker of heaven and earth**.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

What I am listening to? Does it matter? (Media, news, etc.)

Who I am listening to? Does it matter? (The world, or The WORD of God)

What I am seeing? Does it matter? (The world's circumstances or God's promises coming to pass)

What I am crying out for? Does it matter? (My own desires or needs, or for what breaks God's heart)

PROMISE OR INHERITANCE – DOES IT MATTER?

The spies that were sent out to scout the new land and came back with the good report were Joshua (Hoshea) son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:8), and Caleb son of Jephunneh from the tribe of Judah (Numbers 13:6).

In regard to war and conquest it took Joshua 5 to 6 years to conquest the land of Canaan.

In Joshua chapter 14, we find the division of land west of the Jordan River among the tribes of Israel.

Joshua 14:6-12 New International Version (NIV)

WHAT IS IN YOUR HEART? DOES IT MATTER? V.6-7

⁶ Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me.

⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions,

A report according to my convictions – (NKJV – and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart)

Whatever is in your heart, will affect what you see.

FOLLOW THE LORD OR FOLLOW THE LORD WHOLEHEARTEDLY? DOES IT MATTER? V.8

⁸ but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God **wholeheartedly**.

Wholeheartedly (definition)= Complete sincerity and commitment.

DO WE REMEMBER THE PROMISE? DOES IT MATTER? V.9 - 11

⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, “The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.

¹⁰ “Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old!

¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then.

WHERE IS MY FOUNDATION AND HOPE? DOES IT MATTER? V.12

¹² Now give me this hill country that **the LORD promised me that day**. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, **I will drive them out just as he said.**”

Caleb was 40 years old when he was sent out to explore the land of Canaan. Now he is ready to receive the inheritance he had been promised by God.

40 years in the wilderness and 5 years fighting were not enough to wear out his hope and trust in God.

At 85, Caleb is ready to go to war and fight for the enemies that are still living in the land that he received that day.

45 years of experience in how to depend on God in the wilderness.

45 years not only watching the wonders of God, but going to war against His enemies.

45 years living not according to the natural conditions but to the supernatural protection of God.

45 years waiting for the day when His promise will turn into his inheritance.

Joshua 21:45 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁵ Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

2019 was a year where God spoke to the church about what He was going to do in 2020.

Here it is, 2020 and God is faithful and He is doing what HE promised.

I am seeing God moving, or am I stepping up to go to the battle and let Him move in me?

I am just watching the transformation and restoration in people's lives, or is the Holy Spirit transforming me every day?

I have been obedient to come to this church and probably even to this city, but am I obedient to start doing what he called for? DOES IT MATTER?

COMMUNION