

PERSPECTIVE

(Josh. 1:1-9; Nu. 13)

Purpose

- To understand that how we view things (perspective) greatly affects our ability to live successful Christian lives.
- This is the first of a series of six lessons on successful living. The other topics are *faith-based living*, *worry-free living*, *perseverance*, *attitude*, and the *power of prayer*. All lessons have been compiled from stories or applications taken from the life of Joshua. Each lesson stands on their own; however, all the lessons build on and compliment one another.

Objective

- To identify the skewed perspective of the ten spies that had generational consequences. The spies assignment was to spy out the land (Num. 13:17-20) and they told the truth about what they observed (Num. 13:27). Look closely at Josh. 1:8-9.
- God had already given them the land (13:1-2; Josh. 1:2-3), but they did not see the situation by faith and they focused inappropriately taking the grasshopper view (13:31-33).
- Do we take the grasshopper view? Do we magnify the wrong thing and make men bigger than God? (Phil. 1:20)

Outcome

- We should note that godly people view things differently. Those with little faith look upon the lost of the world and say there are too many, there is no way we can make a difference; however, godly men, with God on their side can accomplish great things, even destroy giants. Brethren, we need to have a godly PERSPECTIVE. We need to learn to trust and see things through the eyes of FAITH! We need to learn to walk by faith and not by sight. So let me ask you – how do you view things?
- We should see from this story that godly perspective will not hesitate to act! Why do we doubt, why do we fear, why do we HESITATE? The Lord is on our side!
- Perspective is fundamental to a successful life. Lousy perspective will make us miserable. We have things in our lives we perceive as big problems: temptations, sufferings, finances, etc. Are they too big for God? Can God do what He says He will do?

Key thought

- I. **Every generation will fight its own battles** – institutionalism, the battle for the home and family, personal integrity, same sex marriage, etc. Brethren, if the Lord equipped former generations to win the battles of their day, He will equip us too!
- II. **Every Generation must FIND ITS OWN FAITH.** Like the ten spies we might say, “We’re too small” and “they’re too big”. Folks, what are we going to do? Do we offer excuses? Is this you? “If only I had more money, talent, time, or knowledge, then I could live a successful Christian life”.
 - The fact is, Israel had someone bigger and greater than the sons of Anak...they had Jehovah God. Until we figure that out, we will also find excuses to not possess the Promised Land and instead we will find ourselves wandering in the wilderness.

Discussion

1. All 12 spies saw the same thing. What lesson can we learn from that?
2. Note that a result/consequence of not seeing things through the eye of faith led to grumbling and weeping. (Num. 14:1-2) What was another result of their lack of faith? (What is the end of this story?)
3. What enabled Joshua to say what he did in Num. 14:8-9?
4. How does perspective affect evangelism? Church growth?
5. Personal growth? Believing in, bearing with, hoping for and having confidence that people can change/do better? (I Cor. 13:7)
6. How does perspective affect every other area of successful living we will talk about? (*Faith, Worry, Perseverance, Attitude, and Prayer*)
7. How many times is the word “success” found in the Bible? Is there any significance to this? (Josh. 1:8)

