

CHOOSE LIFE John 10:10

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction

Door #1 - Life and Prosperity

Door #2 - Death and Destruction

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life,

Then I find it very interesting what he says next, “so that you and your children may live...”

The Ripple Effect

Your choices don't just affect you and you alone; they have a lasting effect on your family, children and descendants to come! This is what I call The Ripple Effect.

The same is true for CHOOSING FAITH. Our faith choices will not only affect us, but they will affect our children and grandchildren as well.

Joshua and Caleb Choose Faith

Joshua and Caleb chose faith and it affected them and their family's future, even though they had to live through the effects of others not choosing faith.

Numbers 13:1-2; 25; 27-28; 30-33 The Lord said to Moses, ² “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

²⁵ *At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.*

²⁷ *They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! here is its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.*

³⁰ *Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” **FAITH** ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” **FEAR** ³² And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. ³³ We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”*

*Numbers 14:1-10 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴ And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.” ⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. **FAITH** ⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” **FAITH** ¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. **FEAR** Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.*

God is not happy with the people's lack of faith and abundance of fear. He tells them that all of the men who are 20 years and older would never enter into the Promised Land due to their lack of faith!

Numbers 14: 11-12 The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?”

The only two men above twenty who would live to see the promised land were the two men, Joshua and Caleb, that Chose Faith! The rest, who chose fear, would wander in the desert for the next 40 years until they passed away.

God sent the spies to scout out the land for 40 days. 40 days of opportunity to Choose Faith!

The judgment, they wander in the desert for 40 years, the result of not choosing faith during those 40 days.

The Long Term Effect of Faith

God's promises came true. Joshua son of Nun, would be the successor of Moses and with strong faith he would lead the Israelites into the promise land and conquer it. The very land that God had promised their forefathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The very thing that he and Caleb had faith to do forty years earlier.

Caleb's family also reaped the benefit of his faith when he received an inheritance in the Promised Land.

Joshua 14:6-15 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, 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. 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. 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." ¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. ¹⁴ So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. ¹⁵ (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) Then the land had rest from war.

Joshua 19:49-51 When they had finished dividing the land into its allotted portions, the Israelites gave Joshua son of Nun an inheritance among them, ⁵⁰ as the Lord had commanded. They gave him the town he asked for—Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the town and settled there. ⁵¹ These are the territories that Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun and the heads of the tribal clans of Israel assigned by lot at Shiloh in the presence of the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. And so they finished dividing the land