

## According to Your Faith

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Faith. This is something that you either have, or you don't. Some people feel that there are different levels of faith, but is that true? So-called faith that is only there when everything is going well is not real faith. The kind of faith that is real is the kind that is still there when it is put to the test through hard times and trials. We read in scripture of those who had no trouble believing in God, but had a problem believing in what God would do.

In **Numbers 14** the spies had come back to the camp and reported to Moses and the congregation. Ten of the men gave a bad report to the people and caused them to fear. Oh, the land was good as God had promised, but the people were strong and they would slaughter the Hebrews. They wanted return to Egypt even though Caleb and Joshua said that God would give them victory. Here is God's answer to them concerning their lack of trust and faith in him. It is in the **28th verse** of

**Numbers 14**, "Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you."

God is telling them that since this is what they think and believe would happen, then that is what is going to happen. If you believe that you are going to die here, then you will. They would not die in battle, but in the process of time. Forty years would pass till that generation died out. If not for their lack of faith in the promise of God, they could have entered the promised land forty years sooner than they did. They believed that they would die and not enter the land of promise, and so that is what happened.

The principle of faith doesn't change. It is the same for us today as it was for the people back under the law. What you believe, is what is going to happen in accordance with your faith. I remember speaking to someone years ago about the way faith works. This person felt that each day was a new day in which to fail. It was thought that whatever was tried would end in a failure. I told the person that if that is what a person allowed himself to believe, then he would probably fail. On the other hand I said to do your best and trust God to help.

Jesus taught that our faith would determine how things would work out in our lives. Consider this from the book of Matthew. In **Matthew 9:28-29**, "And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." He simply said that if they believed that he could and would bless them, then he would. In both examples that we have looked at he shows that "According to faith" is what happens.

Now saying "I believe" with the mouth is not enough if we don't believe in our heart. Lip service does not get the job done, but true faith brings the blessing from God. He doesn't respond to empty words, but to words backed up by faith in him. Many people say that they believe in God, but they don't live for him because deep down they don't really believe, either in him, or that he will do what he said. What a person believes is a personal thing. It comes from within you and only you, and God; know what you truly believe. Do you believe, not only in God, but that what he has said, that he will do as well? Remember, according to your faith, be it unto you.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

**JACOB'S TOIL**  
JACOB HAS JOURNEYED TO HIS KINSMAN LABAN'S TOWN IN THE SEARCH FOR A WIFE - NOW RACHEL, LABAN'S DAUGHTER, IS APPROACHING WITH HER SHEEP....

BEHOLD, THOU ASKEST IF ALL IS WELL WITH LABAN, AND, HERE NOW, APPROACHETH HIS DAUGHTER RACHEL WITH HER SHEEP.

RACHEL IS A COMELY MAIDEN!

...AND JACOB ROLLS THE STONE FROM THE ENTRANCE TO THE WELL...

LET ME WATER THY SHEEP FOR THEE, RACHEL!

WHY SHOULDEST THOU TOIL WHEN I CAN DO IT FOR THEE!

HOW IS IT THAT THOU, A STRANGER, DO THIS FOR ME WHOM THOU HAST NEVER SEEN BEFORE?

AH, RACHEL, RACHEL! I AM THY KINSMAN - A SON OF THY FATHER'S SISTER!

HOW NOW! WHY DOES RACHEL RUN AWAY - WHAT HAVE I DONE THAT SHE SHOULD ACT THIS?!

Next Week Laban is informed

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