

Lessons on FAITH and WORKS

We are studying about faith and works in these lessons.
Thursday night we studied the faith and works of CAIN
and ABEL.

Friday night we studied the faith and works of NOAH.

Earlier today we studied the faith and works of
ABRAHAM.

Now we want to study the faith and works of the
CHILDREN of ISRAEL.

Did they have an obedient faith or a DIS-obedient faith?

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The goal of the apostle Paul's preaching was to:

*“bring about the **OBEDIENCE OF FAITH**” ~ Romans 1:5; 16:26*

The “OBEDIENCE OF FAITH” is:

- Faith that ‘worketh by love’ ~ **Galatians 5:6b**
- Love that is shown through obedience ~ **John 14:21a**

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...”

- It is faith that obeys God's commands!

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

Did they have an ‘OBEDIENT FAITH’?

The SETTING: Spying out the land of Canaan. God gave a command:

- *“Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan”* – **Numbers 13:2**
- 10 spies, *“gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land”* – **Numbers 13:32**
- 2 spies said, *“We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.”* – **Numbers 13:30**
- The people said, *“Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”* – **Numbers 14:2**

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

Did they have an ‘OBEDIENT FAITH’?

- They said, “*Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.*” – **Numbers 14:2**
- God said, “*how long will they not believe in Me?*” – **Numbers 14:11**

[Were the children of Israel going to obey God?]

- **GOD** said, “*Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.*” – **Numbers 14:22-23**

Did they believe that God would give them the land of Canaan as HE had promised to Abraham?

“To your descendants I will give this land.” (Genesis 12:7)

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

Did they have an ‘OBEDIENT FAITH’?

- **GOD** said, *“your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.”* – **Numbers 14:29**
- **GOD** said, *“As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the LORD.”* – **Numbers 14:36-37**

The grumbling; the bad report: were these acts of faith in God’s word?

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

Did they have an ‘OBEDIENT FAITH’?

The grumbling; the bad report were NOT acts of faith in God’s word!
They were acts of **DIS-belief**! This is why God pronounced punishment.

THEN THE PEOPLE DID WHAT MANY OF US DO TODAY!

They took it upon themselves to fix their problem; without consulting with God!

“Then you said to me, ‘We have sinned against the LORD; we will indeed go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.’” (**Deuteronomy 1:41a**)

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

Even though they had confessed their wrong, **DID THEY CONSULT GOD?**
NO! They said, ‘we will go up’. Notice what God told them:

“And the LORD said to me, ‘Say to them, “Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; otherwise you will be defeated before your enemies.”’ So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you rebelled against the command of the LORD, and acted presumptuously and went up...” (**Deuteronomy 1:42-43**).

- Notice that they **STILL** refused to listen to God!

They “acted presumptuously and went up”, **AFTER** being commanded not to go up!

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The Children of Israel – **Numbers 14**

They were warned: *“you will fall by the sword, inasmuch as you have turned back from following the LORD. And the LORD will not be with you.”* (**Numbers 14:43**).

DID THEY LISTEN? [Yes or No?]

This is why David prayed, *“Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression”* (**Psalms 19:13**).

What does this tell us about their faith and their works?

Did they have the “obedience of faith” that Paul spoke of in **Romans 1:5; 16:26**?

Let us learn the need for an **“OBEDIENT FAITH”** in our life!