

Setting Your Mind on What Matters Most

Have you ever wondered if something is holding you back from experiencing the promises of God in your life? I remember a time when I was hearing about all the promises of God but not truly experiencing them.

I heard about peace, but I had none. I heard about joy, but I was always unhappy. I could see God's promises in His Word and I believed them, but something was missing. As I spent time in God's Word, I came to realize that the root of my problem was found in the wrong mindsets I was living with.

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The story of the Israelites is a good example of how much difference our mindset can make. In Exodus 13, we read about how God called them out of Egypt to possess the promised land. What was supposed to be an 11-day journey ended up being a 40-year journey through the wilderness—all because the people didn't know how to think right (Deut. 1).

One wrong mindset the Israelites had was the following: "Please make everything easy for me because I can't take it when things are too hard." When things got difficult and they had to fight their enemies, instead of turning to God, they grumbled and complained about their situation. They thought their enemies were the problem, but in fact, it was their thinking.

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Instead of moving forward and experiencing the good things God

had planned for them, He had to take them the long, hard way through the wilderness to prepare them to possess the promised land.

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Like the Israelites, sometimes we're not ready for everything God has planned for us, so we spend a little time in the wilderness, growing up and learning how to trust Him. I am familiar with this. There was a time when I had an "it's just too hard" attitude and mindset about the things I needed to face.

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