

## *When in Doubt; Believe God*

**Introduction:** After 400 years of captivity to a foreign nation, God delivered His people by the hand of Moses and sent them towards a long ago promised land. But fear gave rise to doubt and doubt gave rise to rebellion and rebellion was giving rise to God's hand of judgment. Moses sent spies to walk the land, but their report was divided. On one side a chasm of fear. On the other side a mountain of faith. The choice that they would make determined their course for another 38 years. Let us consider 4 questions:

- How far away from God is too far? **Numbers 14:11-12** *"How long will these people reject Me? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them..."* God is not eager to bring judgment upon His people. The wilderness of the world is a very big place with many distractions. Don't allow yourself to wander so far away from God that He has no choice but to let you go.

*Stay safe by staying near to God.*

- Can you lose something that God has promised you? **Numbers 14:20-25** *"... they have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land which I swore to their fathers..."* God never goes back on His promises, His people walk away from them. The Bible says that if you don't cherish God's promises, you despise God's promises and if you despise them, you will lose them.

*Walk in God's promises to receive God's promises.*

- How much does your walk with God affect others? **Numbers 14:26-33** *And you sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and bear the brunt of your infidelity...* The decisions that you make don't only affect you but they can cause consequences in other's lives. Self-centeredness hurts not only the one but all those around the one.

*Consider others as you consider God.*

- Can you still have God's victory without Him? **Numbers 14:39-45** *"Do not go up lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the Lord is not among you."* You can't win spiritual battles without God. But you can return to Him so that He can win them for you.

*Victory in and through you comes only by God.*

The people of God in the Old Testament are not very different from the modern-day Christian. Like them, many believers today seem to have a short attention span when it comes to what God is saying and doing in their lives. Like the children of old, God has a plan for you. Take heed that you not wander away. Walk in His promises. Think about how your life affects others. If you've wandered, return to the Lord and allow Him to refresh, restore and reaffirm His call on your life.