

# How to Turn a Dream Into a Reality

*Numbers 13:1-3, 17-24*

We've talked about...

- God gives miracles of the moment.
- He also gives miracles of the movement.
- Where God guides, God provides.
- We need to hit pause and worship on the journey.

Today, we're going to talk about something almost all of us will experience if we follow God long at all... **the near death of the dream God has given us.**

## God is looking for dreamers!

### Numbers 13:1-3, 17-24 NLT

<sup>1</sup> The LORD now said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes." <sup>3</sup> So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran...

<sup>17</sup> Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? <sup>20</sup> Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.)

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and explored the land... <sup>23</sup> When they came to the valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes so large that it took two of them to carry it on a pole between them! They also brought back samples of the pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the valley of Eshcol (which means "cluster"), because of the cluster of grapes the Israelite men cut there.

- God wants to show you the future.
- That's why we have prophecy.
- That's why God has issued so many promises.
- And God can be trusted when he gives you a dream!

BUT, even more than dreamers...

## God is looking for doers!

***Dreaming is great.  
Doing is even better!***

Peter Drucker said, "Strategy is a commodity; execution is an art."

### **James 1:22-25 NLT**

<sup>22</sup> But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. <sup>25</sup> But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

We already **know** more than we're **doing**.

### **Numbers 13:25-30 NLT**

<sup>25</sup> After exploring the land for forty days, the men returned <sup>26</sup> to Moses, Aaron, and the whole community of Israel at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran. They reported to the whole community what they had seen and showed them the fruit they had taken from the land. <sup>27</sup> This was their report to Moses: "We entered the land you sent us to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind of fruit it produces. <sup>28</sup> **But** the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there..."

<sup>30</sup> But Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!"

**To be a doer, conquer your fear.**

Real success will always lie just beyond our biggest fears.

- Our fear of the threats, real or imagined.
- Our fear of the fight.
- Our fear of the unknown.
- Our fear of failure.
- Our fear of success and the responsibility that comes with it.

### **Numbers 13:31-33 NLT**

<sup>31</sup> But the other men who had explored the land with him disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" <sup>32</sup> So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. <sup>33</sup> We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

**To be a doer, rebuke lies with the truth.**

The majority report was only “sort of true,” which means it was a lie. They greatly exaggerated the threat. And isn’t that what happens?

***We usually overestimate the size of the challenge before us  
and underestimate the size of our God!***

### **Numbers 14:1-4 NLT**

<sup>14:1</sup> Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. <sup>2</sup> Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. “If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!” they complained. <sup>3</sup> “Why is the LORD taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup> Then they plotted among themselves, “Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!”

**To be a doer, rebel against your addiction to comfort.**

We start thinking, *let’s just go back... at least on this side of our fears we know we can survive... we can get by...*

***But you’re not here to be comfortable.  
You’re here to be purposeful.  
You’re not here to merely exist.  
You’re here to be spent for God’s cause.***

### **Numbers 14:5-9 NLT**

<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel. <sup>6</sup> Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. <sup>7</sup> They said to all the people of Israel, “The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! <sup>8</sup> And if the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup> Do not rebel against the LORD, and don’t be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the LORD is with us! Don’t be afraid of them!”

**To be a doer, focus on the God of the dream more than the dream itself.**

The Israelites focused on the giants while Caleb and Joshua focused on God.  
The same happened with the young, future King David.  
And with Elijah at Mt. Carmel.

*It's never a failure when you're closer to God  
at the end of the experience.*

**Numbers 4:10 NLT**

<sup>10</sup> But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the LORD appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle...

**To be a doer, stand out from the crowd and go against the flow.**

To do the right thing...

To follow Jesus...

To take a stand...

To declare your faith through baptism...

To believe in the resurrection of Christ...

To accomplish God's will...

**You're going to have to stand UP, stand OUT, and stand STRONG!**