

**THE DANGER ZONE:
BEYOND FAITH, BEYOND FEAR**

In a Christian's life, safety comes only through worship to God and obedience to His word.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Deuteronomy is the record of Moses' last speech to the nation of Israel before he died. This was not one of Moses' 'happy' speeches—he was quite upset that he would not have the privilege to lead Israel into the promised land (Deut. 1:37; 3:25-27).
- ❖ The trip from Horeb to Kadesh-barnea was only an eleven-day journey (1:3), but at the time of Moses' speech, the Israelites had been wandering through the desert for 40 years.
- ❖ Of all the miracles God had performed in Israel's sight, this was their analysis of their situation: 'God performed all of these signs, wonders and miracles in our midst because He hates us and is going to destroy us' (1:26-27).
- ❖ Still, at that critical moment, Moses tried to encourage their hearts (1:29-30). God had a proven track record that they were intimately acquainted with (eg. manna from heaven, water from rocks). Their daily life depended on His consistent miraculous interventions (1:31, 33). He was not asking them to trust in an untried, untested God.
- ❖ "Yet, for all that," Moses observed with sadness, "you did not believe the LORD your God" (1:32).
- ❖ By this point in their history, Israel was experiencing multiple miraculous divine interventions every single day of their lives. They didn't just know what God *could* do; they were living in the reality of what God *was* doing for them every day.
- ❖ If asked "Can God deliver?", "Can God change the course of nature?", "Can God give victory in war?", "Can God heal?" their answer was a resounding "YES!" on all counts. They were living a reality that could only be described as "beyond faith."
- ❖ But for Israel, the place beyond faith was a place of fear, rebellion, complaining and disobedience. It is a place we must not fall into.
- ❖ Israel's rebellion did not deter God from continuing His work to fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He continued to do what only He could do to make the impossible possible (2:25).
- ❖ Deuteronomy 2 & 3 continue Moses' recount of the things God had done for Israel, even while the generation of rebellious warriors was being judged.
- ❖ God gave them victory over Sihon and Og, two of the greatest and strongest kings of the time. And Moses again reminded Israel about how this had been accomplished (3:22).
- ❖ In Chapters 4 & 5, Moses highlighted another critical aspect of God's dealing with Israel that we must also remember and practice.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Deuteronomy 6:1-15

- ❖ At least 15 times in these two chapters, reference is made to the fact that God spoke to His people in an audible voice, giving them the Commandments by which they should live.
- ❖ The wise man said, "Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). This is a crucial step in our being able to continue receiving God's miraculous blessing in our lives.
- ❖ God has a deep longing and aching desire for His people to respect and honour Him and obey His commandments. If we live this way, God is then free to bless and prosper us in ways we can't even imagine (5:29).
- ❖ As in the case of Israel, God is going to do amazing things in our lives and in our church according to the many prophecies we have received.
- ❖ Here is the danger, and it lies in a terrible character trait human beings are plagued with: PRIDE! If we are able to move confidently into God's deliverance, provision and miraculous intervention, we can easily begin to feel we are somehow responsible and should take credit.
- ❖ Pride is a very dangerous enemy, but in this place beyond faith and beyond fear, let us be sure to live in a place of obedience to God's word and a place of humble worship and praise to God.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Using your own words, how would you define "pride"? Explain how "pride" can be seen as something good or something bad.
2. Give examples from the Bible of people who exhibited this trait. Was their pride positive or negative, and what was the outcome in each situation?
3. Read Proverbs 16:18. Do your personal observations support or seem to deny this?
4. How might negative pride affect our worship of and/or obedience to God?

Prayer Time

Lord, I desire to live in a place that is "beyond faith," a place where my complete and utter trust is in You. Help me, Oh Lord, to make this my reality everyday.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2019

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

Mary

 (Reminds me/Confirms)
  (New idea)
  (Think about)

 (Do this)
  (Speaks to my heart)
  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Are there things or attributes you possess that you take pride in? Share one or two of them.