



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 62

## **Keep Thyself**

Deuteronomy 4:9 (NKJV)

*Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren.*

If it wasn't possible, it surely would not have been written down for our instruction. This is pertaining to the idea that if we are not on constant watch over ourselves that we will begin to forget what things we have seen the Lord do in our lives. The next step is life-altering concerning the faith, which is where those wonderful statutes of God depart from our hearts.

This passage of scripture in its proper context comes from a final word from Moses where he tells the people of God that he will not be able to go with them to the promised land, but that they would. And while there, Moses is giving them a final exhortation to basically guard their hearts with the commandments of God. Along with this, he is also calling on them to diligently recall and reflect on all that the Lord had done for them.

Recalling and reflecting I believe is a very important spiritual discipline that if not practiced diligently will cause us to forget what God has done in our lives. When this type of behavior happens unbelief creeps in and destroys in our hearts and minds all that God has done for us to such a degree that we find ourselves unable to believe Him in the present time.

This reminds me of the 12 spies that were sent out to spy out the land of Canaan. Ten of the twelve spies saw that the land was plentiful that God was calling them to but for fear of the battle and the giants that lay ahead they quickly forgot the amazing works of God and no longer believed and also spread this bad report among the rest of Israel as follows,

*So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied*

*out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them. "*  
*(Numbers 13:32-33(ESV)*

It is evident in this statement, "*and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them,*" that these people who feared the giants were not actually believing that God was greater and was more than able to gain them the victory. This is interesting because neither this language or the unbelief came from God or His command and word. In fact, the Lord simply gave Moses instructions to send spies into the land that God was giving them (Numbers 13:2). Now they were to see how good or bad the land was. However, it is important to note that the Lord was in His words giving the people of Israel the land. If God said He was giving them the land then why did the ten spies give such a bad report?

I really believe if they would have been on guard over their hearts and recalled all the mighty works of God and reflected on His commands so as to ensure that what they were believing was indeed God's voice and word that they would have had the testimony of the two spies (Joshua and Caleb) who said,

*If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them."* (Numbers 14:8-9 (ESV)

Nevertheless, the unbelieving people in the sight and hearing of true faith wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:10). This may be a far sided contrast to true belief but it illustrates the need to guard our hearts diligently and to believe in the most dramatic of situations.

The point of all of this is to illustrate the extreme importance to recall and reflect on the word and commands of God while remembering and meditating on the amazing works He has done. To nail this down, hear the Lord's response to the 10 spies of unbelief and those who bought their lies,

*And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?"* (Numbers 14:11 (ESV)

Another interesting element of guarding our hearts by recalling and reflecting on the commandments of God is that by so doing we will exalt, by the evidence and

fruit in our lives, the Lord of heaven and earth. Listen to what Moses said in reference to this in Deuteronomy 4:6 (ESV),

*Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'*

Now, we know that this is giving glory to God when by keeping His word and faith in our hearts diligently we magnify His name before all peoples. There is a new testament comparison to this with something the Apostle Paul said in 1 Timothy 4:16 (ESV),

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

This is truly remarkable. God has given us a recipe to keep our hearts free from unbelief. And also with this, we will show the world the God whom we serve.

Lord, You are so great. Your wisdom is so far beyond comparison. Open our eyes to the things forgotten that we might again take a glimpse of Your omnipotence and so believe You. And that by so doing we would truly show the magnificence of Your name and character before all the peoples of the earth, in Jesus name.

In Christ's Love,  
Chris and Jeanne  
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