

A Heart Capable of Unbelief

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When the children of Israel were delivered from Egypt and they crossed over the Red Sea, their faith was at an all-time high. They sang, danced and shouted the praises of God for revealing his mighty arm of deliverance. "The Lord is my strength and song! your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power! the Lord shall reign forever and ever" (Exodus 15:2, 6, 18).

But the Israelites soon forgot his works and turned away from his guidance. They reverted to doubt and unbelief, and the heavenly Father was incredulous. "Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?" (Numbers 14:10-11). What a profound cry from the heart of God: "What do I have to do to find a people who will fully trust me?"

Just as in Moses' day, God's people today trudge blindly on in unbelief, seeming to believe that the grace of God exempts them from the penalties of sin. But the Word makes it clear that even followers of Christ can possess a heart capable of unbelief, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12). It is not talking of degenerates here; it is talking to believers. "Brothers, beware, because you could have a heart of unbelief in you!"

The Scriptures say, "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" (3:14). Some of God's people today are losing the unwavering confidence they once had because of severe testing. Jesus warned of fiery trials of faith that would immediately precede his coming but do not fall back into fear and unbelief.

"Your faith [is] much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire" (1 Peter 1:7). Though you will go through trials do not allow your faith to be diminished by the fire. Instead, allow your faith to be purified. To be made holy. Endure the temporary hardship for an eternal blessing. The God you serve loves you and can be trusted to bring you through any test!