

Read Numbers 14:39-45. Israel had heard the devastating verdict: because they refused to trust God and take the land He had promised, that generation would not enter it. They would wander in the wilderness for forty years until they died. A crushing blow indeed. How would the people respond? The people said they had sinned against the Lord, and suddenly decided they would go up into the land after all. At first glance, this sounds like repentance. But their repentance was reckless. They were not responding to God's word with humble obedience; they were trying to undo the consequences of their sin by proving how sorry they were. They were grieving what their sin had cost them more than they were grieving that they had failed to trust God.

The irony is painful. The day before they were too afraid to enter the land because they believed they could not overcome its inhabitants. Now, they charged alone into the very thing they had feared to do with God's presence going before them. They had refused to trust God when He said, "Go," and now they refused to trust Him when He said, "Do not go." In both cases, they were trying to determine the course of their lives themselves. Their problem was not simply fear; it was a failure to listen to God. True repentance is not about finding some impressive way to prove ourselves to God. It is about turning our hearts back toward Him and becoming willing to obey His voice, even when obedience means humbly accepting the consequences of what we have done.

There is tremendous grace in this truth. God's forgiveness does not always erase the earthly consequences of our choices, but consequences do not mean that forgiveness has been withheld. In Christ, God has already provided the sacrifice for our sins and calls us to receive His grace with repentant faith. We do not need to punish ourselves, perform some great act, or prove our sincerity by recklessly taking matters into our own hands. What God desires is something much more beautiful: a humble heart, listening ears, and willing hands. When we have sinned, we do not need to run ahead of God trying to repair everything ourselves. We need to take His hand, accept His discipline when necessary, and courageously follow wherever He leads next.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: When you think about repentance, are you more troubled by the consequences of sin or by the ways your sin has damaged your relationship with God? Is there an area of your life where you may be trying to "prove" your repentance rather than simply listening to God and obeying Him? What would it look like today to humbly take God's hand, accept whatever He asks of you, and trust Him to lead you forward?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"But as for My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring him into the land..."

Numbers 14:24

Weekly Affirmation:

**TRUST AND OBEY,
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY**

SEPTEMBER 2026 GROWTH GOALS

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| ☐ Read the Book of Numbers | ☐ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses. |
| ☐ Watch the Bible Project video on Numbers
(available on the website). | ☐ Consider removing a daily comfort or luxury this month, using its absence to focus on your relationship with God. |