



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

PRESUMPTUOUSNESS

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January 5, 2022

Presumptuousness means taking liberties or overstepping the bounds of courtesy. For Christians, it means acting on plans without consulting to God. The presumptuous Israelites faced defeat and were chased down by their enemies despite their confidence in God's presence (Num. 14). Christians must learn humility and obedience to God's Word in order to claim victory.

1. **Israel failed to heed Moses' warning.** In Num. 14:40, the Israelites went up to the hill while acknowledging their sins to God; however, they did not listen to Moses' warning. They assumed the promises of God remained with them, though the conditions required their obedience (Deut. 28). Their presumptions led them to their defeat; Moses and the Ark of the Covenant were not with them. Israel's failure to get God's promise was due to their consistent disobedience.
2. **Israel was afraid to move ahead & complained about their predicament.** The people of Israel were afraid to pursue the Promised Land and selfishly wanted to go back to Egypt because of the evil report of the spies (Num. 13:32-33); the dissenting report of Joshua & Caleb was not listened to - though this was backed by God's word. Christians often listen to wrong advice when this matches their personal thoughts and preference, rather than listen to God's word which will make them uncomfortable. God's promise is fulfilled through our faith, but faith without works is dead (Jam. 2:17).
3. **What are the ways we commit the sin of presumption:**
 - 3.1. **We deliberately defy God's words.** Israel pursued their attack despite God's no-go advice through Moses (Num. 14: 42-43). Christians must not disregard prophesy
 - 3.2.

(1Thess. 5:20) and must obey God's instructions.

- 3.3. **We apply God's promises carelessly.** The people in the wilderness held on to God's promises but God himself prevented them. Their obedience to God's plan was the key in obtaining God's promised land to them.
 - 3.4. **We act without consulting God.** Our plans need God's blessing through prayer and meditation of the Word.
 - 3.5. **We presume God's promises do not have conditions or correct context.** Our acceptance and claim to God's promises includes our obedience to and proper understanding of all the conditions.
 - 3.6. **Our faith needs to be coupled with obedience.**
4. **What are the lessons we can get from Israel's story in the wilderness?**
- 4.1. We need to ensure that God's promises are intended for us. God will give us a confirmation with perfect timing, place and resources. Christians often make the mistake of assuming they can claim all of God's promises.
- (To be continued...)

Conclusion:

The Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land was challenging and full of hardships due to their presumptions on God's promises. Our life today sometimes imitates Israel's journey; however, we can change the course by being humble and by listening to God's word in our prayers.

Reflection:

1. What are your ways in obeying God's law?
2. How do you consult God on your plans today?
3. How do you exercise discernment on God's promises?

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