

## **THE DAILY AMEN Devotional**

### **January 24, 2018 by Amy Dalke**

I know we're technically here to talk about specific promises God made to us, and what they look like in real, everyday life. But today I sense God leading me another direction. (Lord help us all.) (Again, I'm about to be fired.) (Not really, but here goes.)

Remember yesterday, when I said that God is love, and there is no fear in perfect love, which means that in Christ, we are fearless? (Just nod your head yes and pretend you read it.)

Well, all day long, I was a little bothered by what I wrote. Not because the words weren't true... but because I didn't want anyone to walk away thinking I meant this should all be easy. Because if living by faith were easy, we would all be doing it.

Let's go back to the Israelites for a minute. You remember how God used Moses to lead them out of slavery, and how they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and all that, right?

Years before Moses, God had promised to Abraham that his descendants would inherit a specific territory called the Promised Land. Well, *finally*, under Moses' leadership, the Israelites were on the edge of going into this Promised Land.

So Moses (according to the Lord's instructions) gathered leaders from each of the tribes and sent them to spy out this land God had promised.

The spies came back and confirmed the land was good as God had promised it would be. But there was a kicker: the people they would have to conquer in order to take the land seemed (SEEMED!) stronger than they were. (Numbers 13:31).

(In other words, heck *NO*, we can't do that. It's impossible. They'll kill us!)

Except 2 of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, who saw the same "big, strong people" as the other spies, viewed the situation differently. They did not deny the high stakes involved or the difficulty of the task ahead, but were fully convinced that they would surely overcome it.

*Why? Because they believed what God promised over what they saw.*

But evidently the comfort (of the wilderness!?) was more attractive to the rest of the Israelites than taking on the challenge to possess the Promised Land.

**So fear won that day.** The people chose to believe what they saw with their own eyes instead of trusting God's ability to give them what He had promised.

The result? **An entire generation of people never stepped foot into the land God promised to them, because of fear and unbelief.**

Y'all. Chew on that for a minute.

See, God hasn't promised to give us land...**but we have a rich, full, abundant inheritance in Jesus Christ.**  
*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.* (Ephesians 1:3 NIV)

Read this one slowly: *And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.* 2 Peter 1:4 NLT

What promises? (The ones we've been talking about for 8 days now — and more!) (Oh my word, this is AMAZING!) **All** God's promises are YES in Christ!! (2 Corinthians 1:20)

We live in our "promised land" when our minds are renewed to think according to truth (God's promises) and walk in them *by faith*.

But living by faith according to what God has promised is not challenge-free. It calls for a perseverance that is admittedly not my favorite. And frankly, it's a lot less difficult to be complacent and settle for the superficial satisfaction the world offers us.

Which is exactly what the Enemy wants us to believe.

More often than not, we have to fight our own flesh to the ground in order to possess what is rightfully ours in Christ. I've learned the hard way (after YEARS in the wilderness) that renewing the mind requires diligently take my thoughts captive. Otherwise, thoughts of insecurity and doubt would keep me on floundering on the edge of my inheritance in Jesus.

And y'all, our minds will never be renewed if we're more familiar with our Netflix options than we are with God's word. (Sorry, was that harsh? It just came out, but I can't erase it because then I'd be people pleasing.)

God is able and faithful, and what He promised is TRUE and far greater and more thrilling and adventurous than the comfortable alternative.

Just like the Israelites, we have a choice. I vote that we stand up in FAITH and refuse to let an entire generation of believers miss the promised land on our watch.

Is that easy? Nope.

But like Joshua and Caleb, I believe it's worth it. AMEN

to that.

Amy