

# The Mindset to Overcome

**Opening Text: Numbers 13:30-32; 14:1-3, 22-24, 30-31**

Speaking about this story, Paul wrote:

**1 Corinthians 10:11** - *Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*

This story has an application for us, the people *upon whom the end of the ages have come*. It contains powerful lessons and an admonition to the end-time generation that we are.

**This passage describes, among other things, the mindset we need to possess in these last days to deal with the difficulties and challenges of our time. We need to have a mindset to overcome.**

Now this story contrasts the spirit (the mindset, the attitude) of someone like Caleb or Joshua, and that of the people of Israel in the days of Moses. Caleb had a different spirit that pleased God and ultimately caused him to possess what God said was his.

In these last days, it is crucial to keep the spirit of faith, a conquering spirit, to believe that God is greater than any giants, to not be intimidated by whatever has come against us.

The spirit of Caleb stands in contrast with that of the rest of the people. What was it about the spirit of the rest of the people that kept them from the land?

**V. 3:** *Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become **victims**? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"*

**V.31** - *But your little ones, **whom you said would be victims**, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.*

## 1. They had a “victim” mindset

Joshua and Caleb had a mindset of faith and they believed they could overcome the enemies seating in the land of their promise. Not so with the people: they saw themselves and their children as *victims*. That same word is again repeated in Deuteronomy 1:39.

A victim mentality rests on 3 key beliefs:

- Bad things happen and will keep happening
- Other people or circumstances are to blame
- Any efforts to create change will fail, so there's no point in trying

## 2. They did have a long history of being victims

For 430 years they lived as slaves, and they were indeed victims. Bad things do happen in life - sometimes totally undeserved and unexpected, and these experiences can become traumatic and shape our beliefs.

Let me say from the outset that God is FOR anyone who's gone through adversity and traumatic situations.

**Psalms 10:14 NIV:** *But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The **victims** commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.*

## 3. There is a difference between being a *victim* and having a *victim mentality*.

There is a difference between falling victim of some unfortunate event and having a 'victim mentality'. Having that kind of mindset is crippling and limiting. You cannot defeat enemies with a victim mentality.

Joshua and Caleb went through the same experiences as all of Israel, but they had a different spirit. And from this story we see God's endorsement and God's blessing on the spirit of faith they had. We see that they entered the land of their promise because of it.

## 4. Unpacking the victim mindset

There are several things that go with the **victim mentality**. When we identify them, it is easy to see why God couldn't endorse it:

1. Chronic pessimism (right from their first steps out of Egypt, we see their pessimism).
2. Often exaggerating the risks or how bad things could turn out.

**V.32** – *it is a land that devours its inhabitants and all the people we saw were men of great stature*

3. Unwillingness to take risks and move forward - they wanted to go back, not forward

**Acts 7:39** - *in their hearts they turned back to Egypt*

4. Negative self-talk

**V.32** – they brought a bad report

**14:3** - *Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?*

How different that was from Caleb's report: **V.30** – *“Let us go at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it”.*

5. Complaining (**14:2**) – blaming others instead of accepting personal responsibility. It is always someone else's fault. They blamed their leaders and God all the time. They even tried to elect new leaders.

**Deuteronomy 1:27** - *“and you complained in your tents, and said, ‘Because the Lord hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.”*

In the victim mindset there is no room for gratitude and appreciation ( it is often coupled with a sense of entitlement).

A victim mentality not only distorts and magnifies difficulties but also minimises the blessings. If we only see difficulties, we won't notice the blessings – and therefore cannot find gratitude.

6. Feelings of repressed anger

**14:10** – *And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.*

7. Deep mistrust (in God and others)

a) Unbelief towards God - **Hebrews 3:19** - *So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

b) Mistrust also of others (they did not trust the report of Joshua and Caleb.

These are the 7 basic characteristics of the victim mindset and that is why God in all His love and compassion could not endorse it but rejected it.

### **The victorious mindset**

The spirit of Caleb was different. He had the mindset to overcome. He was the opposite of what a victim mindset is. He could see a God greater than giants, he could see hope and a future, he could believe for the impossible.

Let us face every challenge that comes against us in these last days with the right mindset. The enemy knows he has little time and his attacks have become more intense. However, let us remember who we are and Who's we are.

- We are not victims

- We are not slaves
- We are not orphans
- We are not without God
- We are not without weapons (they are mighty in God)
- The giants are not greater than the One Who is in us

I love Paul's mindset expressed in Romans 8. He spoke of trial, tribulations and attacks but he had the mindset of an overcomer!

Read **Romans 8:15-18, 31, 35, 37-39:**

*37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*