



PASTOR'S

Perspective

Anthony M. Alford, Sr., Pastor

June 2007

“

... we become defeated by what we see and thus we allow obstacles to overtake us and consume us.

”

Twelve men were dispatched by Moses to spy out the Promised Land. All twelve of them saw the same things. Ten of them came back with a report that listed some good things about the land but they concluded that it would be futile for them to attempt to overtake it. The land was indeed flowing with milk and honey, it had big, beautiful and abundant fruit but the people were strong like giants, the cities were walled and very great and we were as grasshoppers in our own sight. Then there were two others among the twelve spies who said “yes, everything these ten men have said is true but we can take them. Let us go up at once and conquer the land.” What starkly

different conclusions reached by two groups who both witnessed the same thing. On one hand a report which doomed the people to an acceptance of an impossible state or failure and on the other a report which spurred the people to action and ultimately victory and conquest of the land! The Bible says that the people at the hearing of both reports began to rebel for they believed the majority report. The people then thought only of their doomed failure. They had trouble dealing with the possibility of success; but no trouble accepting as a forgone conclusion, failure! The trouble for them and too often us is not in dealing with success, the trouble for most of us is dealing with failure.

Failure is that much unliked and unwelcomed presence that always shows up against our will. None of us bargain for failure yet it is a reality. We fail often and we fail at many things. I believe we fail because we have faulty perspective. This means that somewhere along the line we have approached things with the wrong view or with the wrong set of dynamics. Let me suggest that usually we fail because of one of three things or in some cases because of all three things.

We fail because we have a *faulty outward perspective*. The things around us are viewed as disadvantages or as obstacles. That is to say we become defeated by what we see and thus we allow obstacles to overtake us and consume us. Thus we claim that we can't do it. We also fail because we have a *faulty inward*

perspective. We don't believe we can do it. We don't believe that with our limited resources we are able to pull it off. I have never done this before. I don't know where to begin. We become limited by our own self. Nobody told the spies that they were grasshoppers. They determined this about themselves! They had a failed inward perspective. They fed their own thoughts and inabilities. In simple terms they were their own captors. Then I believe we fail because we have a *faulty upward perspective*. This is the perspective that always looks above or outside of self to God. We count God as small. We forget what He has already done for us. How He has brought us over the hills and valleys and made the rough places plain and the crooked places straight!

The person who has limited upward perspective never recalls the Psalmist declaring “I will look to the hills from where comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!” Thus if we are to turn around what looks like oncoming failure we must press resolutely forward in making certain that our perspective is correct. Does the outward, the inward and the upward all align with each other and do they tell us to remember that the Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Happy Father's Day

Butler Street CME Church
23 Jesse Hill, Jr., Drive, SE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone 404.659.8745
FAX 404.581.0145

www.butlerstreetcmechurch.org