

012719 The Dip You know sometimes as Christians we have this belief that we should never quit something no matter how hard, because somewhere along the line Jesus will make it work if we just don't lose faith. We buy into the saying that Vince Lombardi made famous... "Winners never quit and quitters never win" ... that quitting is the fast track to Loserville ... Well Vince Lombardi was wrong, In fact, there are times when quitting is the smartest tactic you can employ, as long as your long-term goal remains foremost in your mind....your quitting because continuing on that path will undermine your long term Goals... knowing when and what to quit has been proven to be a very successful endeavor....ask any recovering person... Quitting at an endeavor doesn't have to indicate a failing in character; failing could lead to valuable life lessons and might eventually clear the way along the road to long-term success.

There is a huge difference between quitting and being a quitter.... To quit, or not to quit? A quitter is one who gives up to easily...they Fail because they regularly choose the path of least persistence.

- For example, the world is full of those who "tried" to get a business going. After meeting with difficulty or rejections, they quit. They accepted failure, and faded back into the crowd never to be heard from again. The worst part is not that they quit their business, but that they quit themselves.
- Why should succeeding at a business be easier than learning to ski or to play the piano? We are likely to stumble at first. It's part of the learning process. **Ultimately, the people who persevere through the stumbling process learn enough to become successful.**

So the question is How do I know when to stay the course to reach a long term goal...or quit as the long term goal will not be reached no matter the effort?

- Knowing the difference depends on understanding, and recognizing, what sometimes is called "The Dip."

"Almost everything in life worth doing is controlled by the Dip. When you embark on a project, a hobby, a relationship, a change, or a learning experience, it's usually exciting, interesting, and rewarding. Over the first few days, weeks or months, your interest in the endeavor keeps you engaged. **And then you encounter The Dip.** "The

Dip is the long slog between starting and mastery". A long slog that's actually a shortcut, because it gets you where you want to go faster than any other path,"

Some Examples: The combination of bureaucracy and busywork, classes you don't want to take before you graduate from college, become certified in scuba diving, or get through a transition period at work.

- **The Dip is The difference between the easy "beginner" technique and the more useful "expert" approach... in art, the trades, athletics, business, Holiness... really any endeavor....**
- **The Dip is the long stretch between beginner's luck and real accomplishment Successful people don't just ride out the Dip, They lean into it, maintaining pace the harder and more challenging it gets.**

We have a great example of that in the story of Caleb... He earned his greatest fame as a spy who had confidence in the power of his God....but that claim to fame happened when he was 40...but it would have meant nothing if he would have wavered in his decision to trust God when it got much harder to hold on to...or when it hit the dip!

Background...Israel had heard much about the land of milk and honey. They were now at the borders of this Promised Land. Their yearning for Egypt was past. All that remained was the conquest. The spies gazed upon the vineyards and olives groves. They saw the richness of the grain in the fields. They pictured their own farms dotting the valleys. They were excited about each wonder before them. Then they saw the Canaanites! Some of them were eight feet tall. They looked like the dreaded Nephilim of antediluvian days. In sheer panic, ten spies returned to the camp of Israel with their faith shattered, bearing a message of utter and hopeless despair. Only Caleb and Joshua remembered to "Fear not, neither be discouraged" (Duet. 1:21).

Caleb was 38 years old at the time of Israel's exodus from Egypt. He belonged to the tribe of Judah. Two years after the exodus, Israel was camped along the southern border of the Promised Land. They were assured that they only had to walk over the boundary-line and take possession of the land. There would be no resistance by the existing inhabitants.

So Moses sent out 12 spies to explore the land they were to receive...

NU 13: 17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

They were given a strategy by Moses to use...12 men chosen all leaders in their tribes..... one from each tribe...They were to do a S.W.O.T.

- **Assess The Strengths of the land...The Weaknesses of the Land...the Opportunities of the land...the Threats in the land**

NU 13:21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshcol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

NU 13:26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

NU 13:30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

NU 13:31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). **We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.**"

- **They all came back with this negative report except Caleb.. The SWOT is used to assess what is needed to accomplish a goal...**
- **S... strength W... weakness ...O..opportunity...T...Threat**
- **The SWOT ASSESSMENT OF THE LAND**
 - **The Strength of the Land is exceptional...the grapes...very productive**
 - **Weaknesses... we are grasshoppers...they have none...**

- The opportunity...there is none...
- The Threats of the land...overwhelming...they were giants and we were grasshoppers...they would think so...and we think so...

CALEB'S SWOT ASESMENT OF THE LAND

- STRENGTH of the land...it is good...
- WEAKNESS...we have none we have God
- OPPORTUNITY...God gave it to us... And Hungered for the Opportunity to take it...he was a warrior who relished the fight
- THREAT...ONLY OURSELVES IF WE DON'T BELIEVE

ALL TWELVE followed the Lord's calling out from Egypt, but 10 did not follow Him into the land.... they quit...before they receive the blessing

- Many Christians repeat this same error today. They have followed the Lord as He led them out of the spiritual death of sin and guilt. They are "out of Egypt." They are forgiven of their sins. They have new life in Christ.
- However, they do not follow the Lord on "into the land." They do not follow by faith into abundance of life. They do not follow the Lord in humble dependence for transformation, for fruitfulness, for a life of spiritual victory.

We don't think highly enough of our selves!!! As the Lord would have us!!!

RO 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

- Do you know what that means?? Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought?
- It means you should think HIGHLY of yourself as you ought ? but not higher than that...
- You should think as highly of yourself as the measure of Faith God has given you!!!
- You know what that means??
- Faith in what God has said about you and given you should determine how you think of Yourself...

What Has God said about you and given you??? And do you believe it??

Three Questions to Ask Before Quitting:

1. Am I panicking? Quitting when you're panicked is dangerous and expensive.

- The decision to quit is often made in the moment. But that's exactly the wrong time to make such a critical decision.
 - The best quitters are the ones who decide in advance when they're going to quit. When the pressure is greatest to compromise, to drop out, or to settle, your desire to quit should be at its lowest.
2. [Who am I trying to influence?](#) Before I quit ask yourself how is this going to affect others? will it help them? will it encourage them? these were leaders their words carried great weight...their actions even greater...they had moved up the ladder of power and influence in their tribes...their character is on display now...Listen Every step of progress you make, the effects of your decisions are amplified over the last.
 3. [What sort of measurable progress have I made up to this point?](#) before I quit...have I made progress up to this point? is this a next step to progress? ...or is this detrimental and I will lose the progress I have made? Also recognize milestones in areas where you have previously expected to find none but you did by not quitting.....

So these 10 leaders passed on that negative and ungodly word to the people!

NU 14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Egypt, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Be Careful who you listen too! and definitely be able to Minister to yourself the truth!!!

- **The Problem.... They were willing to give up following the Lord ...and their freedom!**
 - they were willing to give up what they already possessed...they would quit to early thereby making their journey up to this point which was a success turning it into a failure!!
 - They looked to their resources instead of the resources of God...
 - God will never send you where he will not resource you!!
- **They still identified as victims rather than conquerors...**

- **You will never take territory even that which God has promised until you believe he can do and accomplish what he says...**

Then Moses and Aaron cry out...this is not the time to quit!! this is the time to lean into God!!

NU 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

- **They were pleaded with to trust in God ...who was pleased to give it to them...**
- **To not be afraid and seize the opportunity...**
- **Faith pleases God!!**

NU 14:10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them....

1. The people were about to kill them...But God intervenes

....Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. ¹¹ The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? ¹² I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

- **The Lord said I am going to do what I say...and I will let these people perish as they say... and that generation perished in the Desert as they desired...and I will give you a new people and a stronger nation...that was the younger generation...and they believed enough to enter 38 years later...**
- **Before we beat them up to much about their lack of faith to possess what God has for them.....think about this...they were given a relatively small chunk of earth...and they were petrified with fear...to go and receive the territory..they would not go and they therefore they would not receive..**
- **Caleb would not only enter the land, he would still be strengthened by faith in God even in his old age. ...He pressed into the long dip....**

*JOS 14: 7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. **And I brought him back a report according to my convictions,** ⁸ but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. ⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me,*

'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.'

JOS 14:10 "Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

- **The first territory you are to possess is you!!!**
- **You must explore it!!**
- **You must come against your own self destructive thoughts and beliefs to enter into the territory God has for you!!**
- **You must possess the territory in your life right now to enter into other territory!!**

How do you possess your own territory?? The circle! We need to do a SWOT on ourselves...check out our own territory ...

What are your Strengths...YOU HAVE GOD YOU HAVE ALL HE HAS FOR YOU

What are your Weaknesses...YOU!

What are your Opportunities...WHAT ARE YOUR LONG TERM GOALS?

What are your Threats...YOU, THE ENEMY, BAD INFLEUENCES...

This is what Caleb did...HE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF HIS GOALS...WHEN HE WAS 38 UNTIL HE WAS 85...HE PURSUED WHAT HE WAS PASSIONATE ABOUT!

Will we pursue what we are passionate about?

How do you know what you are passionate about...simple what makes you angry?

1. **I am livid about what addiction does to people... I want people to know their value...**
2. **I am hate the destruction of the family...and seeing hurting children...**
3. **I hate how people are so disconnected from God themselves and eachother...**
4. **I hate how marriages are crumbling...**
5. **I despise the devil and all his work...**

➤ We must Press in when the dip happens...press into into our own areas of fear and reluctance and disobedience..quit those things that hinder attaining the goals We must Persevere...in walking in the truth

➤ **We must Pursue!!...our God instilled passions**

RO 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than *conquerors* through him who loved us.

- **you are greater than a conqueror???**
- **What is greater than a conqueror? A possessor! You were made to be a A Conqueror who Possesses~~and Blesses end**

PH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably *more than* all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

- **It is his power working in us and for us ...which will accomplish all His will toward us!!**
- **Practice Believing this until you become it, by knowing it experientially!!**

Deut 31:8 The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

