

### Harvest Boom or Harvest Bust...It's Your Choice

**"We have heard the same Good News that your ancestors heard. But the message didn't help those who heard it in the past because they didn't believe." Hebrews 4:2**

Over the past few weeks, during our worship services, we have been joyfully singing the song "It's Harvest Time". It has become our rallying song as we sing of God's promises and about claiming the blessings of those promises. Yes, it is truly wonderful to know that God has a plan for His people according to Jeremiah 29:11 and He invites us to come and share in His goodness. That is indeed some good news. However, as awesome as God's promises, plans and invitation to His blessings may be, it is amazing (and even sad) to know that many have yet to reap the harvest of what God has for them because of one major issue...they don't believe. As a result of their lack of faith, many of God's people are experiencing a harvest bust instead of a harvest boom.

Hebrews 11:1 says, *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* This verse teaches us that having faith in God is having an assurance and conviction that comes from our belief in the truth that God is real and will do what He has promised for those who seek Him. This assurance and conviction that we have will be manifested in our thoughts, words and actions. However, if the belief that God is, God can and God will is not present, this too will be evident. So many Christians are disappointing God and unable to truly experience the harvest of God's promises because, deep down, they really don't believe God.

Just like Israel in Numbers chapters 13 and 14, when Christians lack faith in the presence, power and promises of God, we focus on the perceived problems before us instead of the real power with us. We look at our circumstances based on our own ability instead of God's ability. As a result, we wind up telling God, through our actions, that we don't believe He is real and will keep His promises. Do your thoughts, words and actions show God that you believe He is, He can and He will or, when confronted with a challenge or opportunity, do you complain and murmur about what you/we can't do instead of what God can do? Do you allow fear and paranoia to control you and your emotions because you are focused on what you don't have rather than who you do have? A lack of faith will always block your blessings and cause you to wander in the "wilderness" because without faith, it is impossible to please God.

Listen to the words that come out of your mouth. Observe how you behave yourself. Make a commitment to walk by faith and not by sight. Study and meditate upon the power and promises of God and begin to look at your situations based on God's power instead of your own. Stop talking about what you, the church or others can't do or won't do and speak about what God can do and what we can accomplish with His help. When you show God that you believe Him through your actions, He will be moved by your faith to open the door for you to reap the blessings of His harvest. It's your choice.