

THE GRASSHOPPER COMPLEX

Do you have a grasshopper complex? If you do, you had better get rid of it! A grasshopper complex keeps one from having a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA). Another bad thing about a grasshopper complex is that, it is contagious. You might influence others to the negative and give them a grasshopper complex if you don't change yours.

The grasshopper complex is found in Numbers 13:25-33. Moses had sent the twelve spies into the land (the promised land) and they returned and gave their report. They were all agreed that the land was on that flowed with milk and honey (v27), so much so they brought back some of the fruit to show the people. But they were not agreed as to whether the Israelites should band together and go in and take the land. The problem, as most of the spies saw it, was that there were other nations of people encamped there and the Israelites were not strong enough to overtake them.

Joshua and Caleb disagreed. They said that by all means the Israelites should go in and take the land. They believed that God would overpower the many Gentiles that were already there, and this meant the Jews could indeed have the promised land. But alas, the majority ruled in this case (at least for a while anyway) and the congregation of the people were convinced that God had led them out In the wilderness to die (Num. 14:1-3). Their reasoning was the grasshopper complex: "and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." The physical size and strength of the enemy gave rise to a grasshopper complex. They did not believe they were big enough to conquer the task.

What Joshua and Caleb recognized and the others didn't was that God had truly been with the Israelites all through the wilderness, and how now at the very point of entering the promised land, He wouldn't desert them now. It made no difference to Joshua and Caleb what size the Gentiles were, they had God on their side and that made all the difference.

Many times we are caught up in negative, defeatist, thinking that keeps us from conquering life 's problems. Our own grasshopper complex gives us no confidence from knowing that God is on our side. This attitude is destructive not only to self but to others as well. As we have seen in the case of the Israelites 10 spies with a "grasshopper complex" were able to convince many others of what they thought couldn't be done.

When we have become grasshoppers In our own sight, we also become like a grasshopper in the sight of others. Satan knows this and can play on it for his benefit. If we think we are defeated, Satan will reinforce the belief until we are. "I think I can't" never accomplished anything.

Big events are first big plans and before that big dreams and ideas. When we believe that we can succeed at something we begin to make the necessary arrangements to achieve our task. We then can work at that task with all diligence knowing that with proper preparing and help from others (namely God) our goal is but assured. If you have a grasshopper complex today (negative thinking) get rid of it, and begin building a PSA knowing that you can succeed in life with God's help.