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BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU PUT YOUR “BUT”!

I am becoming more and more convinced as I receive various e-mails, and as I talk with people, we are well able to give a ‘bad’ report or warning, but so seldom is the promise of the Word of the Lord involved! Everywhere we turn almost we can hear the bad news. I’m eager to hear the “Good News”, however. How about you?

Recently as I was reading the Word, I once again was reading about the 12 spies who went into the Land of Promise to scout out the land. They were gone 40 days checking everything out.

Numbers 13:25-29

²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit. ²⁸

Nevertheless (BUT) the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

As you notice, the spies came back carrying the fruit of the land. One cluster of grapes had to be carried on a pole between two of them.

Verse 23 - ²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. *They also brought* some of the pomegranates and figs.

Ten of them came back agreeing with the Word the Lord had given them many times about this Promised Land. “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit”.

And then they had to insert “**Nevertheless (BUT)**”

The problem was that they then gave the ‘facts’ as they saw them. **They started with the Word of the Lord in their mouths before they said “**Nevertheless (BUT)**”.**

²⁸ **Nevertheless (BUT)** the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land



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of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

And that wasn't enough – they had to add more –

1. “We are not able to go up against the people.
2. They are stronger than we are.
3. They devour its inhabitants and all the people we saw are men of great stature.
4. We were like grasshoppers “in our own sight” – According to how they saw themselves!
5. And then they presumed to say “the giants saw us as grasshoppers also!”

They ended after their “Nevertheless (BUT)” with the “facts” of the trip and unbelief and affected the whole camp of the Children of Israel.

The end results for all that generation of people was they were not allowed to go into that land ‘of giants’ who ‘devoured’ its inhabitants. They wandered in the wilderness another 40 years – a year for each day they were spying out the land – until they all died off leaving their children to be the ones who went in to possess the land!

On the other hand, Caleb and Joshua who were of a different spirit spoke out only the Word the Lord had given to them. “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

Caleb and Joshua experienced everything the other 10 spies had experienced. They saw all the giants and strong people of the land, but that didn't enter into their report! They didn't even use the word “Nevertheless (BUT)”

Numbers 14:6-9

⁶ But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; ⁷ and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

Because they only had the Word of the Lord in their mouths, they were the only two of that generation who went into the Promised Land, and Caleb took his mountain while Joshua became the leader of the Children of Israel!

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We find where someone else used **“Nevertheless (BUT)”** in another place.

(Luke 5) Peter and others had been out fishing all night long and had not caught one single fish. The men were gathered on the seashore washing out their nets when Jesus came by being pressed of the people. Jesus stepped into Peter’s boat and asked him if he would put the boat out a little so he could teach the people from there.

When Jesus got done with His teaching, He told Peter to launch out into the deep and let down their nets for a draught.

Peter, being a seasoned fisherman, explained the facts to Jesus: “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: **“Nevertheless (BUT)”** at thy word I will let down the net.

⁶And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake

“Nevertheless (BUT)” at thy word I will let down the net.

Peter started with the ‘facts’ before his **“Nevertheless (BUT)” and he ended with his mouth speaking “BELIEF”.**

Peter caught so many fish, he had to call for the other boat to come out and help, and they, in both boats, caught so many fish, their boats started to sink.

Where do you put your **“Nevertheless (BUT)”** ? Do you put it after the Word of the Lord and end up with the “facts”? Or do you put it after the ‘facts’ and end up with the Word of the Lord?

Yes, the giants are in our land! Yes, there are sometimes issues with health, wealth and wisdom!
“Nevertheless (BUT)” We are well able to take our land of health, wealth and wisdom!!

Sarah judged Him faithful Who had promised – and in her old age, she conceived and bore her son, Isaac! (Hebrews 11:11)

We must “judge Him faithful Who has promised” – and speak His Word over our circumstances and ‘facts’!

Giants may be in our land - **“Nevertheless (BUT)”**we judge Him faithful Who has promised – and we walk in His Promises and in His Word!