

*Membership matters: the group you  
join will affect your destiny*

August 19

Groups are always seeking new members and embracing new leaders. In the past, I have observed wonderful and well-meaning people who are armed with a desire to make a difference accept membership or leadership roles in groups without first fully understanding the goals of the group. These groups exist in churches, workplaces, and other community ventures. Some groups have productive goals and others counterproductive. Such was the case in Moses' day as he led the children of Israel from Egypt across the wilderness to the Promise Land. Along the way, Moses encountered four identifiable groups which are still soliciting members today. There was the 'Let's Go Over Group' (Joshua and Caleb), the 'Let's Take Over Group' (Korah, Dathan, and Abiram), the 'I've Been Over Group' (ten dissenting spies), and the 'It's Over Group' (the generation of Israel who died in the wilderness). Before you join a group or agree to promote their views, make sure that group is submitted to the legitimate leader and the overall goals that leader has espoused.

*Prayer for Today*

Dear God, help me to never sow discord or be divisive by myself or in association with others or to be a part of a rebellious act against the legitimate leaders and the common order You have established in my church, my workplace, or my community. Give me the grace to discern the true motives and any hidden agendas of those who may solicit my involvement. I want to be more like You.

*Scriptures for Today*

Numbers 14:28-30 Say to them, "As I live," says the LORD, "just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in." (NKJV)