

BOOK OF JOSHUA
BEING WHOLEHEARTED
JOSHUA 14:6-15

Introduction

At this point we find that the wars of CANAAN were, for the most part, over. ISRAEL had found TEMPORARY REST in the PROMISED LAND even though there was still much land to be possessed and the ENEMY had not yet been totally eradicated.

Chapters 13 and 14 of JOSHUA deal with the distribution of the LAND to the various TRIBES. And as we read in the fourteenth chapter, we find here a familiar name, CALEB.

CALEB was a part of ISRAEL when they left EGYPT. He was there when the LORD divided the waters of the RED SEA. As a matter of fact, he was one of the 12 spies who had gone in to survey the PROMISED LAND!

More than that, he and JOSHUA were the only two who BELIEVED GOD and recommended that ISRAEL press forward. But, as a whole, ISRAEL chose not to BELIEVE THE LORD and as a result wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until the UNBELIEVERS all perished!

That is a great picture of the DEFEATED NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER as well! GOD SAVES us, and PROMISES us that we can have a LIFE OF VICTORY and SPIRITUAL JOY, but rather than CLAIM what is rightfully ours - things like PEACE, JOY, FELLOWSHIP, POWER, and the GLORY OF GOD, many choose to live in a SPIRITUAL WILDERNESS, DEFEATED and DEPRESSED!

Now we need to understand that CALEB was 85-years old at this point. But he had not forgotten the PROMISES that GOD had made to him.

CALEB pictures the BELIEVER who is willing to PAY THE PRICE, FIGHT THE BATTLES and WIN THE VICTORY that GOD has waiting for him. One word describes CALEB...that word is WHOLEHEARTED!

Read: Joshua 14:6-15

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I. WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT!
The first key to CALEB'S success was that **GOD had all of CALEB that there was!**

Note the repeated phrase "*Wholly followed the LORD.*"
This is said about CALEB six times in the OLD TESTAMENT!

It is a phrase that means "*To close the gap or to draw near.*"

It is a phrase used by hunters to refer to their closing the gap between themselves and their prey.

It refers to the fact that CALEB was committed to keeping the distance between himself and the LORD at a minimum.

So, in that, he is an example to each of us...the LORD deserves our all, because we belong to HIM.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20—"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

CALEB'S COMMITMENT to GOD was based upon his confidence in the WORD OF GOD!

He remembered what GOD had said to him through his servant MOSES. (Vs 9-10)

He had cherished that PROMISE through the 40 years of wandering, as well as during the years of battle.

Through it all, he hadn't forgotten what GOD had PROMISED!
Now he was ready to receive the blessings of GOD!

CALEB'S COMMITMENT should remind us of what our COMMITMENT should be.

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Our COMMITMENT needs to be WHOLEHEARTED as well!
We need to **GIVE OURSELVES TOTALLY TO GOD** and be **WHOLEHEARTED** in our **COMMITMENT** to the **LORD** and **HIS WILL!**

We need to **TRUST** in the **LORD'S PROMISES** to us just as **CALEB** did!

Titus 1:2—“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT!

II. WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED CONFIDENCE!

What was it that gave 85-year-old **CALEB** the idea he could be a giant killer? It was his **FAITH!**

FAITH is not **POSITIVE THINKING!**

FAITH is not **OPTIMISM!**

FAITH is not **LOOKING ON THE BRIGHT SIDE!**

Hebrews 11:1—“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

FAITH is more than **SAYING** that we **BELIEVE**; it is **ACTING ON** what we say we **BELIEVE!** **FAITH** is simply taking **GOD** at **HIS WORD** and **ACTING UPON** what **GOD** says.

FAITH is never a blind leap, but rather it is a deep, settled **CONVICTION** that **GOD WILL DO WHAT HE HAS PROMISED!**

Deuteronomy 1:35-36—“Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers, Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.”

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CALEB'S FAITH had **NOT WAVERED!**

He had seen the **PROMISED LAND** first hand. And I believe for 45 years that vision had burned in his heart as he wandered through the wilderness!

While others complained, **CALEB** looked forward to the time he would **TAKE** and **POSSESS WHAT GOD HAD PROMISED** him.

He was able to **SEE BEYOND** his **CIRCUMSTANCES** into the **PROMISES OF THE LORD!**

Could I tell you that the **LORD** still needs some people who have been pressed from that same mold and cut from that same cloth!

It takes **WHOLEHEARTED FAITH** to win the **SPIRITUAL VICTORY** and **GLORIFY THE LORD** in one's life!

WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT!

WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED CONFIDENCE!

III. WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COURAGE!

CALEB'S COMMITMENT led to **CONFIDENCE** and his **CONFIDENCE** led to **COURAGE!**

CALEB had to scale three great OBSTACLES in his quest for his **CANAAN!**

A. He Had To Overcome Grasshoppers!

1. You might say, "*Pastor I think you have that wrong.*"
2. No I don't...Look at **Numbers 13:30-33**
3. There are always those around us who are convinced that we cannot win the **VICTORY!**
4. To live for **GOD** will often mean that we will stand in the minority!
5. Remember that only **JOSHUA** and **CALEB** were ready to **TRUST GOD** and **ENTER IN TO CONQUER** the **PROMISED LAND** in the **POWER OF GOD!**

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7. We also must overcome the '*grasshoppers*' that will try to convince us that we cannot live **VICTORIOUSLY** for the **LORD!**

He Had To Overcome Grasshoppers.

B. He Had To Overcome Giants. (Vs 12)

GIANTS are simply a **MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE!**

The **BIBLE** says that **GOLIATH** was 9 ½ feet tall. But **DAVID** measured him against **GOD!**

It says that **OG, KING OF BASHAN**, had to have a bed that was 13 ½ feet long,

In *verse 15*, **ARBA** is said to have been '*great among the Anakims*'.

The thing is this, all of us have **GIANTS** in our lives! I'm talking about things that are bigger than us!

We can't defeat GIANTS ourselves, so we have two options.

1. **We can look at how small we are compared to those GIANTS. That is the OUTLOOK of FEAR!**
2. **Or look at how small those GIANTS are compared to GOD! That is the UPLOOK of FAITH!**

C. He Had To Overcome Gray Hairs. (Vs 10-11)

1. What does this tell us?
2. When **GOD** makes a **PROMISE**, he will give us the **STRENGTH** to see its **FULFILLMENT!**
3. Never count **GOD**, or yourself out.
4. **TRUE FAITH** looks **BEYOND THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE** and sees **THE PROVISION OF GOD!**

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*WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT!
WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED CONFIDENCE!
WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED COURAGE!*

**IV. WE SEE CALEB'S WHOLEHEARTED CONQUEST! (Vs. 14-15)
CALEB** experienced what **GOD** had **PROMISED!**

He **CLIMBED THE MOUNTAINS!** He **DEFEATED THE GIANTS!** He **CLAIMED HIS POSSESSION!**

The name of the place **CALEB** inherited used to be called **Kirjath-arba** (*which means city of Arba – A giant, father of Anak*) Its name was changed to **HEBRON** ("*community,*" "*alliance*").

CALEB refused to quit until he had **OBTAINED EVERYTHING** the **LORD** had for him! His **ALLIANCE** with **GOD** gave him his **PROMISED INHERITANCE!**

Where are you in your **PERSONAL WALK** with the **LORD?** Have you entered into your **VICTORY**, or are you still wandering around in the wilderness struggling day to day?

GOD has **PROMISED** us a **PLACE** of **PEACE** and **POWER**, but we must be willing to **CLAIM OUR POSSESSION!** It will take us being **WHOLEHEARTED** like **CALEB!**

There is a huge difference between a **PROMISE** and a **POSSESSION!** **GOD PROMISED ISRAEL** the **LAND**, but they had to **POSSESS IT** before it became theirs.

GOD still has **VICTORY** available for **HIS CHILDREN**; that is **HIS PROMISE!** However, that **PROMISE** must be **ACTIVELY PURSUED** and **POSSESSED** before it will ever become a **REALITY** in our lives.