

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 8th January 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles , Ps/Hymn Ps 23, 300, 418 419

Read: Joshua 14:6-14 Text Joshua 14:12-13

Title: Give Me This Mountain (2).

The Lord has brought to our attention, a man of His own choosing, one who wholly followed the Lord.

In this passage, Caleb is 85 years and he still has the same burden and commitment for the things of God as he did at the age of 40 as **verse 7** records.

His prayer is '**give me this mountain**'. This is a request based on the word of God. Caleb is not asking Joshua to give and bless him the promise of God.

Even in his great age, he is zealous, he desires to know the blessings of the Lord.

Caleb's life challenges each and every one of God's people whatever the age, not to let the fire go out, but be zealous regarding the promises of God, and enjoy being a Child of God, there is more than just im saved going to heaven.

There are heights, depths and fullness of His love, and abundant blessings to know which belong to us.

Having considered **Caleb's, Claim, Confidence and Character**, with the help of the Spirit of God notice:

IV FOURTH, CALEBS CONFLICT

Having known much victory in the land of Israel already, the place called Hebron that God had promised Caleb was still occupied by the enemy.

As Caleb petitions Joshua '**give me this mountain**', he also means 'give me the permission to take it from the enemy'.

Caleb knew he was in a conflict and would need to labour and battle in order to defeat enemy and enjoy blessings.

You see the enemy would not sit back and allow Caleb to take ground or his inheritance.

Caleb identifies his opposers and opposition in **verse 12** as "**the Anakims...**" These were the giants in the land.

They are strong and intimidating.

Caleb is recalling the day he entered the land to spy it out.

As they searched the land of Canaan, Caleb along with the nine other spies came across the inhabitants of the land.

the report is recorded in **Num 13:29** "**The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.**"

The point I'm making here at this stage of the message, is these are the very people, obstacles that Caleb must overcome to enjoy the blessings of God. They had to be driven out if Caleb is to enjoy his inheritance.

Victory was promised by the Lord. The Lord had promised to drive the enemy out, notice in **Deut 9:1-3** "**Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,**

² A people great and tall, the children of the Anakims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!³

Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.

Caleb is aware the enemy will hinder, but Caleb will not enter the battle alone.

He knows he is weak, helpless and unable to take ground, for this reason he says in **Joshua 14:12** ***“if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.”***

Child of God as we seek to go forward, there will be conflicts, the enemy the world, the devil and flesh will rise up and push you back, so you will not go on with God and rejoice in blessings.

Believer we are more than conquerors through Christ.

We are on the Lord's side and there is victory through and because of Christ.

There is strength for the battle, to claim blessings. The spiritual inheritance of the believer is not won without personal conflict.

We have the sword of the Lord, and it is mighty to the pulling down of strong holds.

The Lord is with us, therefore who can be against us.

V FIFTH, CALEBS CONSISTENCY

As noted, Caleb was 40 years old when God promised him his inheritance, 45 years later Caleb is 85 years old and he still desires to claim the mountain promised.

After 45 years he has not lost sight of the God's word for him. He is standing on the promises of God which cannot fail.

Caleb has consistency waited for the day when God would do as He said He would and perform the word which caused his servant to hope, '**give me this mountain**'.

I make this point because from the time of the promise much happened in those 45 years.

Yet **Caleb showed consistency for 45 years despite, the Disbelief of the people.**

Num 13:1 "**the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel**" The word are clear here is mind of God regarding the blessings to His people, He had already given them the land, but now they must take it.

Notice the words of **Deuteronomy 1:20-21** "**Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the Lord our God doth give unto us. Behold, the Lord thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.**"

The land of promise was before them, go and feast on the good things provided by the Lord.

But the people of Israel doubted the word of God. They didn't believe in the promise of God. They first needed to see the land before they would enter.

They wanted to walk by sight before they would walk by faith.

We learn at this time God did not allow them to enter the land.

Heb 3:19 "**...they could not enter in because of unbelief**".

While the children of Israel were in disbelief, Caleb still held into word of God for his soul.

He would not allow the disbelief of others to cause him to abandon the blessings, and enjoyment of what God had promised him.

Maybe God has given you a promise for the work of God here, hold on to it. Yes some may question it, disbelieve, God will move again, don't abandon the word, or work God has given you.

Like Caleb hold on to it, even it takes 45 years. '**give me this mountain**', it will be given.

Those who disbelieved what the Lord had given never entered the land, only the younger generation along with Caleb and Joshua.

Caleb was consistent for 45 years despite The Discouragements of the people

God in His Sovereignty permitted Moses to send out spies.

Twelve spies were chosen, one from each tribe except from the tribe of Levi. The Levites were excluded because of their chosen position as priests.

Moses sent 12 spies into the land of Canaan, to view out the land in order to advance and enjoy all the covenant blessings of God.

They were given specific instructions. They covered good ground.

Forty days gave them ample time to discover, what God had said about the land was true.

However, after 40 days, their survey of the land was complete, 10 of those spies came back to Moses as **Num 13:32** states they **brought an evil report of the land.**

An evil report that discouraged the people. The word "**evil**" in that verse means "**slander**" **wicked. The idea is to be dishonest, discourage.,**

They reported in Num 13:28 “**Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.**”

Here is the centre discouragement, evil report in verse 31 “**We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.**”

The end of verse 32-33 “**and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. ³³ And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.**”

The 10 spies concluded to the rest of the children of Israel, there is no point of going forward, we are not able to claim what God has for us.

There is too much against us.

The promises to Abraham and his seed to live in the land is not possible. The people who live in the land, are great and strong, and we are small, nothing compared to them.

Caleb said, that this report in Joshua 14:8 “**made the heart of the people melt...**” the word melt means dissolve.

Think of snow, or ice it melts, it fades and goes away.

The evil report, gave the people no desire to go forward, their desire faded away, they stopped following the Lord.

that's why Caleb makes the point, **but I wholly followed the Lord.**

The 10 spies insisted Israel could not conquer the land. The reason they came to this conclusion is they left out God.

God had promised to give the land to the Israelites. But these spies did not consider God; they only considered the circumstances which they could see when they made their conclusion.

If you leave out God, then, of course, nothing is possible.

Israel would never have gotten out of Egypt or as far on the journey as they then were without the great power of God.

Measure difficulties by human strength and you will be overwhelmed by the slightest of difficulties.

Maybe there is one here, discouraged in the work, you believe the evil report of the devil, doubting believers, there is no point going on in work.

You are swayed by others not to get involved in church ministry.

Maybe other Christians have caused your heart to melt, the desire to attend Sunday and prayer meetings has faded away.

learn from Caleb keep following God, consistently hold on to the promises God, '**give me this mountain**'. Turn your eyes upon Jesus His word will not fail you.

We have the word of God in our possession, we must read it. We have the promises of God we must take them a plead them.

We have access to the throne of grace but we must engage in prayer.

Caleb was consistent for 45 years despite The Delays because the people

As that time they did not claim and possess the blessings God had for them.

Their fear, unbelief, rebellion, robbed Caleb of the joy of taking his inheritance at that time. It was wasted time.

Notice **Joshua 14:10** “*while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness.*”

It Fact it was 45 years later, that Caleb received His inheritance. During those years, He held on the word of God.

Caleb knew there were many obstacles, but in his heart he *believed God would enable them to overcome*, as he said in **Num 13:30**, the Lord is with us.

His heart was fixed on the Lord, he was not swayed by popular opinion. ‘*give me this mountain*’.

God’s delays are never denials or reversals. Maybe you are a wandering Christian.

You have wasted years, not enjoying the Lord’s presence, or fellowship in His word.

week after week, your in the same place, same wilderness as last year or years before.

Still listening to doubters, and discourages.

It is not God's will for you to wander around in the wilderness of defeat, doubt, no growth. It is His will that you walk in victory and in His power of His might.

You must have Wait upon the Lord and He shall strengthen thine heart. Tel Him your not rejoicing in His salvation, then ask ‘*give me this mountain*’. Its time to leave the wilderness, and enjoy the blessing of the Christian life.

VI SIXTH, CALEBS CONQUEST.

Verse 13, “*Joshua blessed him and gace unto Caleb... Hebron for His inheritance.*” Caleb overcame the enemy.

Caleb entered into his possession. He claimed and enjoyed the blessings of God.

The name **Hebron** means **fellowship**, and it was one of the cities of refuge recorded in Joshua 20.

Therefore, Caleb enjoyed fellowship with God, and there was refuge for the for needy soul.

Remember the cities of refuge pictured Christ, He is the sinners refuge from the enemy.

Christ is our fellowship and everlasting joy. In Christ is victory over the enemies attack. We triumph in Christ. We are conquerors through Christ.

But knowing these gospel blessing is great, but claiming what has been purchased is required.

Christian you must enter into and enjoy fellowship with the Lord, and all the good things He has provided for you. Otherwise, you will lose out with God.

Sinner you must flee to Christ the refuge for the soul.