

# Seeking My King & His Kingdom

## #6 A Different Spirit Produces Unwavering Faith

Num. 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another [different] spirit with him, and has followed Me fully, I will bring him into the land which he entered; and his seed shall possess it.

*Caleb, a man of Extraordinary Faith*, represents man in the FULLNESS of God's Strength, man unhindered by the world, by Satan, because Caleb WHOLLY FOLLOWED GOD!

I. Caleb possessed a Carrying Faith

Joshua 14:6-11 <sup>6</sup> Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. <sup>7</sup> I *was* forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as *it was* in my heart. <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. <sup>9</sup> So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden (darak > warfare) shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' <sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. <sup>11</sup> As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Caleb, age 85, interrupted the apportionment of the land among the people of Israel when he stepped out of the ranks to claim the portion which God had promised him 45 years before.

Characteristics of Caleb:

1. The Faith of his youth was not dimmed in his old age.
2. The vision of the Lord was clearer as he grew older.
3. He was not content merely to survey his past but he was ready and eager for fresh battles with the enemy.
4. Caleb possessed an unwavering faith.

Return to the scene 45 years earlier recorded in Num. 13 & 14.

The children of Israel reached Kadesh-barnea on the very border of the Promised Land.

Problem: The UNBELIEF which had plagued them during their early wilderness journey demanded > We must send in spies to survey the land. So, 12 men [1 per tribe] were sent in. After a 40 day tour of inspection they brought back 2 reports.

a. Majority Report > The land does flow with milk and honey.

Num. 13:28, 33 NEVERTHELESS, the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak (GIANTS) there and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Conclusion: We ARE NOT ABLE to go up against them.

b. Minority Report > Caleb & Joshua > It is true there are giants, but we BELIEVE GOD.  
Num. 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Num. 14:8 If the Lord delights in us, He will bring us safely into this land and give it to us, a rich land flowing with milk and honey.

"IF" - There was an "if" in Caleb's belief. It was NOT an "if" of unbelief.

It was an "if" of humility. > If the Lord delight in us.

Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the inhabitants.

They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us!

Conclusion: We are well able to overcome it.

Imagine Caleb's reaction to the bounties of the Promised Land - the grapes that exploded with sweetness in his mouth after 2 years of manna and quail. He wanted this so very much!

He & Joshua took samples of the fruit back to the people so they could experience it.

Surely the people will be excited about this wonderful Promised Land! He could hardly believe his ears as the people listened intently to the descriptions of the giants and walled cities.

People - can't you see these grapes! Taste! Can't you see that God is with us?

Cry of the People: "Let us go back to Egypt." Discouragement spread through the people.

Doubt > Unbelief [challenges the character of God] > Rebellion - They FORGOT the bondage; in their desire to avoid further peril and trouble, they dishonored God.

Truth: A complaining spirit is evidence of an ungrateful heart and an unsundered will.

Difference: The majority measured the giants against their own strength.

Caleb & Joshua measured the giants against God's strength.

The majority trembled; the minority triumphed.

The majority had great giants and a little God.

Caleb & Joshua had a great God and little giants. "One with God is a majority."

God's Decision: The land of blessing can ONLY be inherited by faith and obedience. Therefore, the Promised Land will be refused to a whole generation of His people except Caleb & Joshua.

God himself shut down their return to Egypt, but he slammed the door to Canaan too!

Six times, Scripture says Caleb "followed God fully." Literally, he "was filled with pursuing."

His heart was so set on following God that it didn't have room for any competing choice.

Num. 14:24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

"wholly" or "fully" - 2 Hebrew words: ahar > the hind part, behind

mala - to be filled up Caleb was filled up with the hindpart of God. He kept so close.

To be filled with the Spirit of God > you are so dependent upon Him, He can't shake you!

Caleb surely treasured that promise from God during 45 years of weary wandering, toil and ceaseless conflict and unfulfilled hopes. As the people continued to murmur, Caleb retained the fixed purpose to wholly follow the LORD; his faith carried him.

Like Abraham in Rom. 4:20-21 He did not waver at the promise of God through UNBELIEF, but was Strengthened In Faith, Giving Glory To God,

<sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Consider: Caleb was NEVER found among the grumblers, the skeptics and unbelievers.

He was NEVER found among the people who yearned for the leeks and garlic of Egypt.

He was NEVER found among those who disobeyed God or turned to idolatry.

Why? *Caleb had caught a glimpse of the reward of obedience.* That Hope Was Sufficient to keep him true until God brought him to the place He had promised him.

Consider: If I am lacking in a "carrying" faith, I need to abide in Him, His Word and His Promises. The basis for abiding in Him is obedience to His commands. If I am not abiding in Him, I will not have the faith to carry me through the storms of life. Instead of feasting on the "monster fruit" of God, I am starving on Gerber's processed baby food.

## II. Caleb had a Climbing Faith

Joshua 14:12 Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great and fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."

What a moment when Caleb (at 85) in all the maturity of godly character and in all the authority of one who believed God, stepped out of the ranks alone. He had gone through many difficulties and succeeded in the struggle to overcome those who would have done most anything to dissuade him from his conviction. Can you imagine hearing him:

"Now, after 45 years of waiting, after many an agony of soul, after having been tempted by the crowd to pull back - NOW, give me this mountain whereof the Lord spoke in that day!"

Note: Caleb's strength never weakened.

Joshua 14:11 As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

Truth: A faith that NEVER wavered enabled him to lay hold on a strength that never weakened - the very power of God Himself.

Caleb fully followed the Lord while everyone around him was dropping dead, complaining, getting bitten by snakes, swallowed by the earth. Caleb was thinking about mountain climbing; pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Caleb kept on drinking from the Rock, thinking about the grapes, his inheritance and climbing the mountain.

Truth: You are either running a winning race or falling down in the wilderness.

No human energy could suffice for all the trials of the way. Caleb could toil, fight and exhaust himself and still be full of the strength of God. This is a great example of

II Cor. 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward *man* is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

## III. Caleb had a Conquering Faith

II Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Caleb's reward was complete victory.

Joshua 14:13-15 <sup>13</sup> And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. <sup>14</sup> Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh

the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

<sup>15</sup> And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba* was the greatest man among the Anakim). Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak. Then the land had rest from war.

Of all the people who received an inheritance in the land, Caleb was the only one who succeeded in expelling the enemy. The others made poor headway. The last part of Joshua makes sad reading. Over and over: "They were not able to drive them out." The chariots of iron were too strong. Caleb was able to drive out ALL the enemy even though there were 3 giants in the portion allotted to him. Consider: The man who wholly followed the LORD was the only one who was wholly victorious in the battle.

Truth: The enemy knows the weak points in my armor. Failure to drive out the enemy in my life is due to my failure to wholly follow the Lord. Absolute triumph is achieved only in response to utter obedience. God knows the leakage in my consecration, the flaw in my obedience which has led to failure to exterminate the foe and not victory.

Not only was Caleb totally victorious, he had a blessing that never wasted. In Joshua 15, we learn that Caleb had something to spare for his daughter and her husband. He was able to portion out some of his inheritance to this newlywed couple. He gave them the upper and lower springs. It could be truly said of Caleb: "He was like a watered garden, full of fragrance rare." The blessing of his life overflowed to others. Does your heart yearn to be like that?

The secret of Caleb > He had a love that never waned.

When Caleb was 40, he toured and inspected the land. One place captured his heart, not because of its fruit, its milk and honey. He desired Hebron which was situated on a rugged mountain. It was the most powerful stronghold of the enemy and was guarded by the strongest of giants. Gen. 10 tells us that Abraham pitched his tent here.

God spoke to him here and gave him the promise of the land.

Hebron's meaning: fellowship, love and communion. This was the place that Caleb cherished.

This is the place we all must seek and find. Caleb wanted to PROVE the POWER of GOD.

Fear looks at the problems > Faith claims the opportunities.

Truth: Faith filters every giant through the Power of God.

Redpath: "There is a place guarded by powerful forces, a rugged stronghold which Satan attempts to keep from God's people at all costs. He is prepared to barter portions of the land to the children of God. He will give them the plains and the valleys. He will give them the milk and honey. But when Satan sees a soul pressing toward the mountain of Hebron - the soul that is going to be satisfied with nothing in his life other than love, fellowship and communion with God - Satan is stirred to a last-ditch battle."

"Here was the secret of Caleb's patience, of his faith and of his complete victory - in Hebron he had caught a glimpse of the reward of discipleship - the greatest reward of all.

Caleb saw the place of communion, of fellowship, of God's infinite blessing, and regardless of the cost and the hardship, he pressed on until Hebron was his."

Joshua 14:14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite unto this day, because that He Wholly Followed The Lord God Of Israel.