

SONGS: When We All Get to Heaven (Sing the wondrous love of Jesus); Calvary Covers It All (Far dearer than all the world can import); I Want that Mountain; Jesus Loves Even Me (I am so glad that our Father in heaven
CLOSE:

Caleb

Joshua Series: 14 of 18

TEXT: Joshua 14:6-15

AIM: Encourage the believer to follow the Lord in possessing all God has given.

INTRODUCTION:

TURN >> Chap. 11 – we read of Joshua taking the whole land and rested from war in vs. 23.

In our last message, we saw in chapters 10 & 11 Israel's final conquest of the land of Canaan when the Northern and Southern campaigns were complete. Israel has taken the entire land of Canaan and has concluded for all practical purposes its campaign in conquering the land of Canaan.

BUT, there are still little pockets of resistance all over the countryside.

Though these are yet to be conquered, as far as major opposition is concerned, after Chap. 12, the land falls into the hands of the Israelites and is ready to be divided among the 12 Hebrew tribes. So, from *Chap. 13-21* is recorded the dividing of the land among the 12 tribes.

Let's not be fooled to think that the fact that the land was conquered did not mean that every single Canaanite was destroyed as can be seen in Josh. 13:1 << READ.

This may seem to be a contradiction with the statement in **11:23**, but the fact was, all over the conquered land remained little pockets of strongholds where the Canaanites had fled and were held up.

These enemy fortifications needed to be possessed or overthrown, but for all practical purposes the land was taken—the Canaanites were defeated! Much like in a modern war where the main force of the enemy has been defeated, there will remain diehards who'll resist the conquering army to the very end.

After the land was divided among the 12 tribes, each tribe would become individually responsible to root out these strongholds of Canaanites in their portion of land. The land was occupied, but they were going to have to fight to possess it! God would continue to lead them to do so and would continue to fight for them giving them the victory!

It becomes clear in Joshua and later in the book of Judges that many of those tribes failed to do as they were instructed to do. They were given an inheritance, BUT decided to settle down and co-exist with the enemy, rather than drive them out from the land. This caused tremendous problems to Israel as time went on.

Here in Joshua 14, before the actual dividing of the land begins, Caleb approaches Joshua in verse 6 to be sure that he was to get what was rightfully his.

If you'll remember, Caleb – along with Joshua – were the only two of the 12 spies sent into Canaan who was willing to follow God all the way, even in spite of the giants in the land! Therefore, he alone was allowed to go with Joshua into the Promised Land.

Here in vs. 6 Caleb wanted to remind Joshua of God's promise, that Hebron was promised to him and before the land was partitioned off he wanted THAT MOUNTAIN!

For sure it is only on the basis of the Word of God that we can claim our blessing.

Caleb knew that Joshua knew that Moses had made that promise and that God had also made that promise, but he just wanted to make sure Joshua didn't get mixed up and give someone else that place.

Vs. 12 Caleb demanded of Joshua, *"Give me this mountain!"* Caleb was a man of spiritual vision as well as spiritual vitality; and these two qualities led to spiritual victory. God had

promised him the inheritance and Caleb had the faith to believe what God had promised He was able to perform.

PLEASE note three things about Caleb in this portion of Scripture:

1] His PAST, 1] His PROMISE, and 3] His POWER

I. HIS PAST – VS. 6-7

A. His Family

1. Vs. 7 – Since Caleb was 40 yrs. old at Kadesh-Barnea, he had to be born in Egypt, while the Jews were enduring great suffering (i.e. Ex. 1-2). He was born a slave, yet he died a hero!
 - a. Although Caleb was not an Israelite by birth, he was “an Israelite indeed.” His father, Jephunneh (Num. 13:6; 32:12) was a Kenezite. The *Kenizzites* are only mentioned in **Gen. 15:19** where they are placed between the *Kenites* and the *Kadmonites*—nations to be dispossessed by Israel!
 - 1) Kenezites, descendants of Kenaz, seem to be one of the Edomite tribes roaming the deserts of Sinai (Gen. 36:15).
 - 2) It was into one of these tribes—the Kenites—that Moses had married (Judges 1:16; 4:11), The migration of Israel northward attracted some of these people and they joined themselves in faith to the Lord and to His people. Caleb’s family was attached to the tribe of Judah.
 - b. It is quite possible his mother was from the tribe of Judah. **Josh. 14:13-14 and 15:13** indicates that in spite of heathen heritage, Caleb was given an inheritance “*among the children of Judah*,” implying he was not actually fathered by a member of that tribe, but does not explain why he had an inheritance with them, unless his mom was from this tribe.
 - c. Nonetheless, Caleb was redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb, delivered from Egypt, and given the prospects of a great inheritance in Canaan. **He would have no inheritance under Joshua had he not first experienced redemption under Moses.**
2. His name is interesting. It means: “bold, impetuous, forcible” coming from a Heb. root meaning “to yelp, or else to attack; a dog; hence (by euphemism) a male prostitute: —*dog*.”
 - a. The meaning of his name being “dog” adds to his mixed parentage: his father, being a Kenezite and his mother from the tribe of Judah.
 - b. As such, this makes his faith an even greater wonder!
3. If his mother was of the Tribe of Judah, Caleb’s family lineage would in the line of the Lord Jesus Christ as Matt. 1:3 lists Judas and Lk. 3:33 lists Judah.

B. His Faith – TURN >> Num. 13:25-30

1. He had an unshakable faith that God would keep His word and give Israel the Promised Land of Canaan >> **READ Num. 14:6-8**].
 - a. Israel, instead of immediately claiming their inheritance demanded of Moses to send out spies into the land according to **Deut. 1:21-25**.
 - b. BUT it was by God’s command that Moses sent out these spies: **Num. 13:1-2**.
 - c. **NOTICE** that Caleb & Joshua must have held a position of confidence in the nation to be sent out as one of the 12. **READ >> Num. 13:6, 8, 16**.
 - 1) *Oshea* – family name of Joshua = “salvation.” To this is prefixed an abbreviation of the covenant name of God – for *Jeh* – Vs. 16
 - 2) Thus “*Jeshosuha*” means “God is salvation.”

- d. Only Caleb & Joshua returned with a good report and defended Moses, encouraging the nation to enter Canaan ***“WE ARE WELL ABLE TO OVERCOME IT!”*** – Num. 13:30 cp. Num. 14:6-9.

Does the Lord “delight in you?” Do you have enough confidence in God to say, *“WE ARE WELL ABLE TO OVERCOME”*** and enter into the land of spiritual maturity?**

I am begging you, PLEASE don’t rebel against the LORD for, *“The Lord is with us; fear them not!”*** (14:9)**

2. Caleb had FAITH TO BUCK THE CROWD!
- a. The ten Unbelieving, the 10 UNfaithful spies said, “NO WAY! We are not going in.” – Num. 13:31-33

I had the privilege of meeting a man named, Dale Cowling.

He owned a scaffolding business. He had a burden to reach boys and girls for Christ. People told him that there was no way he could possibly bring all the children to church he wanted to reach. Not deterred, he started a bus route to collect kids for SS and church. How did he do it without a bus? Get the church or the pastor to give him a bus? NO! With his own money, he bought a bus and started a visiting in the neighbourhood to find boys and girls to fill it up – would you believe that after he got this one bus route going, he went and bought a 2nd bus? AND he got me to drive it and be responsible to find boys & girls to fill it up!

- 1) Like Joshua, Bro. Cowling saw a way he could reach these children. We need to SEE a way, need to FIND a way, need to MAKE a way to reach lost folks for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Caleb & Joshua could see the victory in spite of the foes – Num. 14:9.
- b. The congregation of Israel’s lack of faith is described in Num. 14:1-4
 - 1) Cowardice, despair, murmuring, faint-heartedness and outright rebellion erupted – This happens every time we refuse to obey and trust God!
 - 2) They reasoned, “Might makes right.” – In other words, the majority rules! Doesn’t it?
 - 3) They reasoned the other ten men were equally educated as Joshua & Caleb; they were equally learned in the things of God — **They must be know better** — but Joshua and Caleb were on the side of RIGHT not on the side of humanistic REASON!
 - 4) The rebellious nation saw only obstacles & problems, while the believing leaders saw opportunities & prospects!
 - a) Here the majority walking by sight, while the minority was walking by faith.
 - b) **When it comes to spiritual things, not only is the majority not always right, I would go further to say, they are rarely right!**
 - c) One only has to casually think of this world’s views on morality, drinking, sex, language, abortion, child rearing and religion to know how wrong they are in these areas.
- c. The rebellious nation saw only the obstacles, the problems; the believing leaders saw the opportunities, the prospects. ***What was the result?***
 - 1) The 10 spies & the unbelieving generation died in the wilderness — Caleb & Joshua LIVED to enter and enjoy the Promised Land. ***Rom. 8:6 warns – “to be carnally minded is death”***
 - 2) It took courage for Caleb to stand against the whole nation, **BUT God honoured him for it.**

Not only did Caleb had faith to buck the crowd, he had...

3. FAITH TO FOLLOW THE LORD! >> TURN *Joshua 14:7-9*

- a. Six times in the Bible – 3 X in this **Chap.** > **14:8, 9, 14** – we are told that Caleb *“Wholly followed the Lord.”* Of no one else—in the Bible—is this testimony repeated so frequently.
- b. **TURN >> Num. 14:24** where God calls this remarkable man *“my servant.”* In addition to God’s witness at the beginning of the 40 yrs. in the wilderness, Moses testified of Caleb at the end of Israel’s wandering in **Num. 32:12**.
- c. Caleb was a positive thinking servant of God, who like Abraham in **Rom. 4:20,21** – *“... Staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.”*

Having looked at Caleb’s past, let’s now look at...

II. HIS PROMISE – NUM. 14:24

A. His promise involved HEARTACHE

1. Caleb did not die in the wilderness, but he had to suffer 40 years in the wilderness with the unbelieving nation. *Think of what this godly, believing man had to endure!*
 - a. Every single day Caleb saw people die in the wilderness and miss the inheritance because of UNBELIEF!
 - b. He had to put up with their UNBELIEF and had to listen to the Jews murmuring & complaining for 40 years.
 - c. He loved Moses, yet he had to listen to his countrymen criticise their leader and he witness their opposition to him because of their UNBELIEF.

In Matt. 17:14-20 we see the disciples were unable to heal a boy with demonic fits.

Jesus said in **verse 17** *“O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer (have to put up with) you?”* The disciples asked, *“Why could we not cast him (the Demon) out?”* **Jesus said...BECAUSE OF YOUR UNBELIEF!** The major reason we do not experience victory in our lives is UNBELIEF of God’s people concerning God’s Word.

How was Caleb able to maintain his spiritual life when surrounded by so much carnality and unbelief?

HIS HEART WAS IN THE PROMISED LAND! God had given him a wonderful promise of inheritance. ‘Caleb, wherever you walk it is yours.’ For 40 yrs., Caleb lived, stayed by the stuff, faithfully fought, and wholly followed the Lord. All those years, he thought of his promised mountain in HEBRON! His heart was on that mountain though his body was in the wilderness; his heart and mind were in Canaan!

Here is a perfect illustration of **Col. 3:1-4** – *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above... Set your affection [mind] on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”* This is what **Rom. 8:6** means by *“to be spiritually minded.”*

Caleb was able to endure the trials of the wilderness because he knew that he did not have to fear death, that he had an inheritance and that God would not fail him in obtaining his promise! – **Josh. 14:10-11**

Oh, how much **more** we have in Christ than just earthly possessions!

Yet, we give up so often and so easily, falling and failing in our pilgrim journey.

Though his promise involved HEARTACHE it also surely involved...

B. Hebron

1. **Num. 14:24** – Caleb had *“another spirit with him...”* His desire was to believe and fully follow God.

2. Caleb's promise was in Canaan – his inheritance was THERE!
LOOK >> Num. 14:30; Matt. 6:21 – *“For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.”* His heart was in Canaan! **PLEASE TURN BACK > READ Josh. 14:9**
3. He desired what he was promised **Josh. 14:12** –
“GIVE ME THAT MOUNTAIN!”
 - a. DESIRE is what makes the difference between a winner and a loser.
 - b. I was taught in Marine training – most aggressive combatant usually wins.
4. ARE YOU determined not to be short changed of what has been promised you!!
5. God has promised us in this life a spiritual Hebron:
 - ➡ The place of spiritual victory
 - ➡ The place of spiritual blessings
 - ➡ The place of spiritual maturity, which He has promised to all of us
5. God has given us everything we need to be a faithful servant of Jesus Christ.
7. God has given us everything we need to be victorious in this Christian life.
8. God has promised us our spiritual Hebron and if you believe His Word and obey it, He will *delight* in you and give it to you.

C. The Hunters Out of the Land – The 12 Spies

1. Their accounts of the land provided TWO different descriptions of Hebron. Their divergent picture of things also expresses two different Christian views of our spiritual Hebron.
 - a. **Positive Side** the account of TWO men – **Num. 13:23-27**.
 - 1) Did you ever wonder who were the 2 men that carried the grapes of Eschol? *Could it have been Joshua & Caleb?*
 - 2) GIVE Illus. of the huge Grapevine in Bethlehem, Pa.
 - 3) These two men said, “Listen, we’ve tasted the succulent grapes, drank the delicious milk & delighted in the sweet honey. – Let’s go take the land!”
 - b. **Negative View** – From 10 Spies – **Num. 13:28, 29, 31**. They complained that ‘the enemy is greater than us.’ So, what is new? Aren’t the people, the problems, the provocations, and the protests usually great than ourselves?
2. The response of UNBELIEF infuriated Joshua and Caleb – **Num. 14:6-8**.
 - a. They knew what God had promised and that He was on their side, rooting for them and would provide them the victory—only— if only these folks would believe and obey.
 - b. The Apostle John states in **1 Jn. 4:4** the NT believer can also *“overcome them: [his enemies] because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”*

Having looked at Caleb's past and God's promise to him let's finally examine...

III. HIS POWER

A. Caleb's PHYSICAL strength hadn't wane.

1. **Note:** Glorious testimony of strength Caleb gives on his birthday – **Josh 14:10-11**.
 - a. The man of faith is always the man of spiritual strength, even if he is a physical wreck or weakling!
 - b. It has been 45 yrs. since the nation's failure at Kadesh-Barnea, and Caleb declared in **vs. 10** *“this day”* I am 85 yrs. old and I am laying claim to my inheritance to the glory of God. *“Now...give me this mountain”* (vs. 12) the Lord promised me back when I was 40.

2. Do you realise you are never too old to serve God?
God's people should never retire from serving God.
 - a. When I met Bro. Loren Pugsley he had retired from pastoring, but he did not retire from his service to God.
 - b. I can't recall their names now, but I can remember when Kathi and I were just starting our deputation at the age of 35, we met a couple who were in their early 60's who had just finished their first term of service in Venezuela!
 - c. Though there maybe a time when the older folks should let the younger take over their ministry, BUT NO ONE, including the older folks should never have the attitude that they are finished in their service to God.
3. It is really too bad when believer's allow "old age" to make **COMPLAINERS** out of them when they ought (like Caleb) to be **CONQUERORS** till the day God calls them home to be with Him.

B. Caleb's SPIRITUAL strength didn't wane.

1. Ever notice how healthy new converts seem to have ferocious appetite for the Bible, spiritual things and hunger for victory in their everyday lives?
2. Old Converts – think it isn't worth the effort to have spiritual victory.
There are too many problems, its too difficult, so they decide to co-exist with sin!

C. Caleb's kept himself spiritually alert and alive.

1. His spiritual VISION never dimmed.
2. His spiritual VITALITY never waned.
3. He achieved the VICTORY by faith in God's Promises – **Josh. 15:13-14.**
 - a. By believing God and staying in the battle is how he drove out the very same giants the 10 unbelieving spies had feared.
 - b. UNBELIEF looks at the giants—but **FAITH** looks to GOD!
 - c. UNBELIEF depends on man's common sense—but **FAITH** rests wholly on the Word of God.

D. Caleb's dedication & faith saved his life, gained him an inheritance, overcame the enemy and enabled him to enrich his own family for years to come – Josh. 15:16-19.

1. **Vs. 16** – Caleb could take care of his family as well as himself and when his daughter was to marry, he wanted her to have a husband that could do the same so give out this challenge.
2. Caleb's daughter illustrates a wonderful spiritual truth – **15:18-19.**
 - a. After her marriage to Othniel, she returns to her father to ask for a further blessing! Caleb gave her a field, but she also wanted the springs of water to nourish that field.
 - b. The believer also has the privilege to ask his spiritual Father for greater blessings. We need "spiritual springs" of living water that water the fruitful life. The field that God gives us will never produce fruit apart from the springs of water from the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39).

E. Christians today are to be conquerors, in fact *"more than conquerors through Him that loved us"* (Rom. 8:37).

1. Caleb & Joshua claimed a material inheritance, we are to claim our spiritual inheritance in CHRIST!
2. We can overcome the enemy & make the same claim as Caleb by:

- a. Wholly yielding ourselves to the Lord and desiring that He would delight in us!
- b. Know God's promises, claiming them and believing that He'll give them to us.
- c. We must be determined to keep our heart & keep our mind fixed on our inheritance.
- d. We must surely depend on God to give us the VICTORY!

***"But thanks be to God which gives us the VICTORY,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57)***

CONCLUSION

1. Let me ask, do giants oppose you – taunt you, saying you'll never get the victory?
2. If so, this day, will you believe God and purpose take what is yours?
The LORD has promised to give it to you.
He delights in those who believe Him and take Him at His word.
3. Are you prepared to make use of the spiritual weapons available to you today and claim your inheritance?
4. Would you say you have come to the place where you are resting on the peak of Hebron like Caleb?

To possess the blessing that God promised him, Caleb had to conquer the land he wanted – the mountain of Hebron. At the time, he was 85 yrs. old, at least 25 yrs. older than any other man in Israel. Yet, he and his family alone, of all the tribes who entered the land, were able to complete God's command to drive out all the pagan inhabitants from his inheritance – even though these residents were the same fearsome giants who had so terrified the 10 spies 45 yrs. earlier >> **LOOK Josh 14:13-15; 15:13-17!**

Likewise, Jesus says to us today; ***"If any man serve Me, let him follow Me...if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour"*** (John 12:26).

9 Sept. 1984 – Lifegate Bible BC – Dublin
 13 Jan. '92 – Cork – Calvary B.F.
 2 Mar. 1, 03 – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare
 27 Sept. 2009 – River Valley BC – Leixlip, Co. Kildare
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