

The Book of Joshua

"Caleb: Man of Faith"

Joshua 14, 15

Intro. 1. God never leaves Himself without a positive witness to that way which most pleases Him.

2. Caleb had the basic ingredient which pleases God--faith.

3. The life of Caleb illustrates the factor of faith through the following situations:

- 1. His commission as a spy. Num. 13:30; 14:7, 8; Joshua 14:7.

Consider what He affirmed in this situation:

- a. About the land.
 - 1) It was desireable.
 - 2) It was posseßsable.
 - a) Immediately.
 - b) Energetically.
- b. About the people.
 - 1) They were as bread.
 - 2) Their defense was departed.
- c. About the Lord--He is with us!

A man of greater persuasions could not be found. Caleb was of the sort who conquer!

- 2. His disposition as a servant. Num. 14:24; 32:12; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:9, 14.

Two blessed thoughts are provided concerning Caleb at this juncture:

- a. His commitment to the Lord. He wholly followed HIM!
- b. His distinctness with the Lord. He had another spirit!

Without question, this is the calibre of man required to please the Lord. He was no follower of the crowd nor pessimistic idler.

3. His designation as an example. Joshua 14:9-11.

This is obliquely noted in the text, but the truth of the matter is that all others of his generation had perished. He and Joshua remained alone. For 45 years Caleb was a living witness to the promise of God. He was a flesh and blood example of the fruit of faith. Faith lives; disbelief dies!

4. His distinction as a soldier. Joshua 14:12-15.

In spite of or in the face of the people of the land and the fenced cities behind which they lived, Caleb was undaunted. Listen to his remarkable words:

- a. Give me.
- b. The Lord spake.
- c. Thou heardest.
- d. The Lord be with me.
- e. I will be able.
- f. Joshua blessed.
- g. Hebron became.

His bulldog courage through faith in the Lord made Caleb a winner.

Conclusion:

Caleb moved out on the promises of God (14:10); he acted on the persuasions of his heart (14:7); he was sustained strong to claim his possession (14:11).

The qualities which characterized Caleb are really those which should be yours. Under God, why not strike out and be that man of faith? Moody once said: "The world has yet to see what God can do through a man wholly yielded unto God. By God's grace, I will be that man." Is there any of this spirit in YOU? God grant that there is!