

The Caleb Spirit

LeRoy Eims

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Numbers 13

B. Tribulation produces perseverance and godly character. (Romans 5)

C. Leadership does not come from technical expertise - it comes from character that comes from tests that God brings.

II. God wants us to rely completely and totally on Him, but we must use the eyes and mind God gave us.

A. We walk by faith, but we use our eyes to follow Him.

B. Do not look to the world for your answers - look to God. Human wisdom is so worthless compared to God's that God simply destroys it. (1 Corinthians 1:17, 1:20)

C. We look to Christ for wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

D. If you are going to give yourself to a ministry of teaching, let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly - the bottom line of leadership is going to the Word of God for counsel.

E. The men were to use their minds, but rely completely on God.

III. The downfall of the spies - "Nevertheless."

A. The spies lost heart because they began to rely on their own human wisdom.

B. They also lost heart because they had forgotten what God wanted them to do - to bless the world.

C. God had in mind that the Israelites would be a kingdom of priests taking the knowledge of the living God to a people that had no knowledge of Him at all, but they lost track of their objective. (Exodus 19:5-6)

D. It is easy to lose the objective when self becomes the center.

IV. Caleb gets the people back on track. (Numbers 13:30)

A. He courageously says they should go and possess the land because it was the promise of God.

B. God planted the seed of promise firmly because he knew that man turns when the battle heats up. (Numbers 13:31)

C. The leaders began to murmur because the Word was not dwelling in them richly.

D. The leaders feared the giants of the land, but those same people were afraid of the Israelites. (Numbers 13:32, Joshua 2:9-10)

E. The leaders failed the test, but Caleb did not. (Numbers 14:8-9)

V. Caleb's toughest battle was the last. (Joshua 14:7)

A. Success takes persistence and endurance.

B. We need a spirit within us that will persevere and trust God daily.

Application questions

1. What place does the Word of God have in leadership? Explain.

2. Why did the leaders of Israel fail after they spied out the land?

3. What promises should we cling firmly to today in order to see success like Caleb did?
