

Caleb: A Man with a Right Spirit

John Crawford

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Numbers 13-14.

B. The Old Testament stories were written for us. (1 Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4, 1 Corinthians 13, 2 Peter 3:2)

C. Background.

1. Moses appointed responsible mature men.
2. Canaan: the victorious life now.
3. The promised life is now. God brought us out that He might bring us in. (Deuteronomy 6:23)
4. This promised life is the land flowing with milk and honey - a really good place.

II. Caleb had a different Spirit - he was following the Lord.

A. When we are following the Lord we either see problems or promises - Caleb saw the latter.

1. The men in the land were of great stature.
2. Caleb saw the problem in the light that God said they could take it.
3. Gripping brings discouragement. (Proverbs 15:4)
4. Results of gripping.
 - a. Leadership is wrongly removed.
 - b. Asking God for the wrong things unintentionally.
 - c. Victory is refused. (Joshua 2:8-11)
5. Caleb acted in faith believing that God could take the land.
6. Because Caleb had another Spirit, he was allowed to go into the land while the people were not since they did not believe that God could take care of the children.
7. The people repented, but they did not repent in God's timing. (1 Chronicles 12:32)

B. Caleb lived his life completely before God and not according to the pressures around him. (Joshua 14)

1. The ungodly cannot help us in our walk.
2. We look for spiritual patterns, and if we do not have one we personally must set the pattern through Scripture.
3. We ought to raise the standard in our discipline like Caleb. Caleb had to work at it, and he did.
4. Caleb did not rely on any special help in the battle in his old age - only the opportunity.
 - a. A soldier should only ask for himself the opportunity to distinguish himself in the battle.
 - b. Caleb believed that if the Lord was with him, he would be able to drive the giants out of the land he requested.
 - c. We are to maintain our equilibrium before God so we can take advantage of opportunities that God gives us.

Application questions

1. How did Caleb handle adversity that is different from how most handle it?

2. How does Caleb model the right attitude to have in old age?

3. What challenges are you currently facing? How can you rely on God's strength to get you through it?
