

BE FAITHFUL, BE VICTORIOUS

MARCH 5, 2023

WORSHIP

Jesus The Same, Today,
Battle Belongs, What a
Beautiful Name, Find us
Faithful

WELCOME

Is there anything that you
have been eagerly and ex-
pectantly waiting for to this
day? What is it?

WORD

JOSHUA 14:6-12 (READ THE ENTIRE JOSHUA 14)

⁶ Then the sons of Judah drew near to Joshua in Gilgal, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know the word which the Lord spoke to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh-barnea. ⁷ 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 word back to him as it was in my heart. ⁸ Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt with fear; but I followed the Lord my God fully. ⁹ So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God fully.' ¹⁰ Now behold, the Lord has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. ¹¹ I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. ¹² Now then, give me this hill country about which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the Lord will be with me, and I will drive them out as the Lord has spoken."

The Lord allowed the Israelites to vanquish 31 kings (**Joshua 12**) and God commanded Joshua to start portioning out the land even though much of the land had to be conquered still (**Joshua 13**).

The story of the Israelite nation is a story of grace. They didn't do anything to deserve the land God gave them. It is God's land, but He gave it to them because He is a gracious and faithful God. "Inheritance" is something you do not work for but something you receive and enjoy because you are part of a particular family. Heaven is our inheritance; believers can be sure of heaven because we have a relationship with Jesus. Believing in Jesus and receiving Him brings us into the family of God. Whenever we read the story Israel, keep in mind that it is a story of grace and our story as well in many ways.

Be on guard against the enemy's deception. One of his strongest weapons is to get us to think the wrong way. If we do, then our beliefs and our emotions will be flawed and our actions and direction in life will also be wrong.

The enemy would like to embed a dangerous short-term mindset in us:

- "I want it now." We become unmindful of the consequences down the road.
- "The grass is always greener on the other side." Whenever we face a problem in our current situation, we bail out and move elsewhere.
- "This life...I cannot take it anymore." Taking one's own life.

Caleb is someone whose life will teach us how we can get out of a short-term mindset and live a life that is truly victorious from this day until the last day of our life.

He is a portrait of faithfulness. He followed God fully or wholeheartedly (**v.8**); Moses (**v.9**) and God (**v.14**) said the same thing about him! His name implies "faithful", "bold", "brave", "wholehearted". In the Bible, "faithful" means steadfast, dedicated, dependable, and worthy of trust. It is fidelity toward another person or toward God. Faithfulness is for the long haul, a key to victorious living.

We learn from Caleb three ways to be faithful:

I. LIVE TO PLEASE GOD (Joshua 14:6-9)

The story of Caleb is a story of God's grace (**vv.6-7**). The Kenizzites were not originally Hebrew. Caleb became part of the tribe of Judah by marriage of Jephunneh to someone from the tribe. Whatever your background is, wherever you're from, or whatever you've done, once you put your faith in God you become part of His family. It's been said repeatedly that Caleb followed God fully (**vv.8-9**).

Long before they entered the Promised Land, Moses sent out 12 spies including Caleb and Joshua (**Numbers 13:1-2,6,8**). The spies went out and came back with a report that disturbed the people (**Numbers 13:27-28**). Caleb quieted the people and stood his ground based on the God's character and promise. Caleb wanted to please

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God not people; he did not go with the crowd. Unfortunately, the majority of the spies gave a bad report (**Numbers 13:32-33**). In their hearts, they really did not want to obey God and they infected the rest of the people. The painful consequence was the lost opportunity for that generation to enter the land, but there was blessing for Caleb because he followed God fully (**vv. 22-24**).

Being a people pleaser (“fear of man”) is a trap, the remedy is to trust in the Lord (**Proverbs 29:25**). Pleasing people and pleasing God cannot co-exist (**Galatians 1:10**)!

II. LIVE LIFE TO THE MAX (**Joshua 14:10-11**)

Caleb said that “the Lord has let me live” which means life is a gift (**v.10**). For as long as the Lord lets you live, He has something in store for you. Strength, energy, health are also gifts (**v.11**). Whatever is the length of life, or the measure of strength God gives to us, we need to maximize it not for our pleasure or for our glory, but for pleasing God. We see something similar in the life of Moses (**Deuteronomy 34:5,7**).

It is not automatic that if we are faithful, we will live a long life. It is not so much about the length of life, but it is about what we do with it.

Genesis 5 enumerates the generations from Adam up to Noah, full of names and ages. Excerpts (**Genesis 5:18-20, 25-27**) show the pattern that they lived, had children, and died. Enoch was different (**Genesis 5:21-24**)! He “walked with God”, lived in a relationship with God. He knew God personally. He lived a short life in comparison to everybody else, but he walked with God and God “took” him.

Paul tells us that to live life to the max, be careful how we “walk”, referring to our everyday living, by making the most of our time and “understanding” (closely connected with discerning and doing the will of God) (**Ephesians 5:15-16**).

III. LIVE BY GOD’S PROMISES (**Joshua 14:12-15**)

The most difficult room to be in is the waiting room—waiting for God to answer our prayer or fulfill a promise. Caleb waited for 45 years, but he was confident in God! The phrase “perhaps the LORD will be with me” (**v.12**) is a Hebrew idiom which means the complete opposite—it is a statement of confidence. In the chapter that follows, Caleb drove three sons of Anak and received God’s inheritance (**Joshua 15:14**)!

Adoniram Judson was someone who lived by God’s promises despite the odds. He suffered much after His wife and daughter died. God in His mercy pulled him out of darkness and gave him a vision for reaching Burma for Jesus. Today, his translation work continues to bear fruit for the gospel in Myanmar. Our faithfulness is only a reflection of God’s faithfulness. The future is as bright as the promises of God (Adoniram Judson)!

As for for Caleb (**vv.13-15**), he defeated Anakim’s leader Arba, and Hebron, formerly Kiriath-arba, became Caleb’s land by the grace of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Is there anything in your life today that may not be pleasing to God? What can you do to ensure you always live to please Him?

2. Setting It Right.

How can you maximize your life—time, energy, opportunity—for the glory of God?

3. Living It Out.

Which of God’s promises do you need to cling to at this point in your life and why?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to place their faith and look to the Lord Jesus Christ only for salvation. Be a faithful family member (spouse, parent, child) and friend. Make the most of your time and energy spent with them and the opportunity to influence them. Share the good news of God’s promises and His faithfulness to fulfill them.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God’s help and comfort for Turkish and Syrian people devastated by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 14:14

Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the Lord God of Israel fully.