

“I Want That Mountain” Building a Spiritual Legacy
Joshua 14:6-14

Building a Spiritual Legacy: Some people think about it early in life. Others think about it later in life. But we ALL Think about it.

How will You Be Remembered...In Spiritual Terms?

What Contribution Will You Leave?

How Can You Build a God-Honoring Spiritual Legacy, and get started in 2010.

Fortunately, God talks about this through the life of an OT Saint named Caleb. Let's see how Caleb Built His Spiritual Legacy, and How You and I can, too.

Read Joshua 14:6-14 On this day, Caleb went to Joshua his old friend, to lay claim to his Legacy. You know the story...

The first thing Caleb did was...

- **Caleb Focused on God's Purpose in his life.** 14:12 “give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day”

Caleb said, “45 years ago, God gave me a vision for my life and I want to follow it.”
“Vision always begins with God!”

Caleb was now an old man. His time was limited on this earth. He had to make a choice. What did he want most of all? 14:12, “I want that mountain.”

Illust. John Knox: “Give me Scotland or I die!” Passion!

Caleb had a God-given Goal. What about you?

God has given all of us a mission. It will take Faith, Hard Work, Patience, Cooperation, and Personal Sacrifice to fulfill it. We cannot afford to lose Focus.

(Clue to Finding God's Purpose... Think Community, not just Individually)

Too many times we miss out on God's purpose because we only think in terms of INDIVIDUAL purpose. The greatest things you accomplish in your life will probably be as a part of a group. Caleb was in Community, with his nation, and tribe and family.

“The two greatest days in a person's life are the day he was born and the day he finds out why he was born.” Anonymous

Caleb Focused on God's Purpose in his life

- **Caleb had Faith in God's Plan for his life.** 14:9

“Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever”

Caleb was a man of Faith. Part of his Spiritual Legacy. He was not a natural Israelite. Kenezite. He did not have a hereditary faith. It was the fruit of Conviction. He had accepted the God of Israel for himself.

Every generation must choose. God has no grandchildren. Only children!

You may have a wonderful Christian heritage, or not, but this is YOUR life, YOU CAN CHOOSE!

Caleb chose to claim the blessings of God for Himself and His family.

Illust. Duke of Wellington bullet proof vest

Quote: “There’s just something about believing God that will cause Him to pass over a million people just to get to you.” Smith Wigglesworth

Illust. Soul of Count Louis Esterfield.

Faith will cause you to invest your life in more worthy things. Leave a LEGACY behind more valuable than Jewels!

How do you have that kind of faith?

3 Characteristics of Caleb’s Mountain Man Faith...

(3 Essentials of Claiming God’s Blessings for Your Own Life.)

#1 He Magnified the Power of God. 14:6-9

“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”

cf. Numbers 13:30-33

Take you back 45 years earlier. Caleb recalled to Joshua an unforgettable day at an unforgettable spot, Kadesh-Barnea when the 12 spies had give their report.

10 faltered in faith, 2 spoke up for God

The nation chose doubt and defeat

Caleb would not follow the crowd just to make it unanimous. He spoke up for God. He did not minimize the problems. He magnified God.

God is bigger than any problem!

If not you, who? If not now, when?

If you want to claim the rightful blessings of God for your life, your family, and your church, you have to see PAST the PROBLEMS to God.

*Doubt Magnifies the Problems
Faith Always Magnifies God
Do you Lean toward Doubt or Faith?*

APPL. Whatever your problem, God is bigger. Worry, Bad Temper, Personal Conflict, Family Problem, Finances, Career, Health, Church Trying to Accomplish the Great Commission...

#2 He Grabbed the Promises of God. 14:10-11

“Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke”

45 years is a long time to wait for a promise. I’m sure Caleb had some discouraging days. But Caleb knew what we need to relearn, that God always keeps His promises. It had been 38 years in the wilderness, 7 years conquering the Canaanites = 45 years Appl. How very sad to realize that Israel could have possessed the land in only 8 years if they had responded in faith to God’s promise at Kadesh Barnea. But they refused to believe God and obey Him.

Cf. Hebrews 3:7-19,
There were a lot of funerals in the wilderness because they said “NO.”

Illust. Poem, “Mountain of Difficulty” Hope you cannot relate
Winners don’t give Excuses. They give Extra Effort.

Illust. Napoleon and Corporal

Illust. Adoniram Judson, Baptist and pioneer missionary to Burma

#3 **He Counted on the Presence of God.** 14:12-14 “perhaps the LORD will be with me”

He said, God won’t send me to do the job alone.

So, at age 85, when he might have asked for a quiet place to raise a garden, or a shady back porch and a rocker, or a membership at the country club, he requested the section of Canaan that struck fear in to the hearts of those spies 45 years earlier. A place younger men were afraid to try.

Appl. Beware of the tendency / temptation to seek Comfort instead of Conquest.

Illust. Dr. Don Campbell said, “And though old age is usually more anxious to talk about old conflicts than to take on new ones, Caleb was ready for one more good battle.”

Someone said, “You can tell the size of a man by the bigness or smallness of the things he attacks.” (DAVID and GOLIATH)

How did old Colonel Caleb do this? Did he have over confidence in his own abilities?

No. He believed God would be with him. He counted on the presence of God.

Promise: “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

“Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name”

Joke: Mouse and Elephant crossing the bridge together

“Attempt Great Things For God...Expect Great Things From God.” William Carey
When we step out for Him, He shows up for us.

Need More Faith? Magnify the Power of God
Grab the Promises of God, then
Count on the Presence of God

Caleb Focused on God’s Purpose in his life
Caleb had Faith in God’s Plan for his life

But there is **One More thing** you must do to establish your Spiritual Legacy. It really puts the first two things to the test.

- ❑ **Caleb Followed through for God’s Blessings.** 15:13-15 “Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak”

It takes more than just good speeches & good intentions to defeat the giants. You have to **strap on your sword** and chase them down.

It takes more than FOCUS, more than FAITH. It takes FOLLOW-THROUGH. Frankly, this is where so many Christians fumble the Ball and never actually possess the blessings God has set aside for them.

He not only believed in the promises of God, He acted on them!

But when Caleb followed through, He not only won the battle for himself, but for his nation, and his family, and the next generation, too.

Let us seek conquest, not comfort. Beware of the temptation of saying what the Apostle Paul said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." TOO SOON!

God still has more for you to do. More battles to fight, and win. More lands to conquer, more churches to build, more ministries to start, more souls to win, more children to teach, more youth to disciple.

It takes **Focus, Faith, and Follow Through** to Build a Great, Spiritual Legacy for Yourself, Your Family, & Church

We all have a choice in life. We can either choose to stand on the promises, or choose to sit on the premises. Winner stand.

Illust. John Bacon, an 18th century English sculptor, ordered a marker for his grave with the following inscription: "What I was as an artist seemed to me of some importance while I lived; what I really was as a believer in Christ Jesus is the only thing of importance to me now."

What really matters? What do you want most to be remembered for? What legacy do you want to leave for the next generation?

3 Suggestions:

1. Let them know that you publicly acknowledged Jesus as Your Savior. Followed Him in baptism. Don't leave them wondering.
2. Invest your life in something bigger. I cannot think of anything greater than the church of Jesus Christ.
3. You may be at Kadesh Barnea today. A place of decision. A place of destiny. Caleb had no idea that the decision he made that day would have implications 45 years later. He just did the right thing. Stay where you are & seek a false security or you can go forward & see what God can do.

Romans 8:37 We are more than Conquerors through Him who loved us.

⁶Then 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.”

¹³So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

¹⁴Therefore, Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite until this day, because he followed the LORD God of Israel fully.