

Numbers 13:17–30

¹⁷And Moses sent them [12 men one leader from each tribe of Israel] to spy out [to secretly find information useful to an invading army] the land of Canaan, and said unto them, “Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain [them, “search to the south and up in the hills”]: ¹⁸And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; ¹⁹And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad [improved or hard to travel]; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds [cities with walls for defense]; ²⁰And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean [fertile or hard to farm], whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring [...back with you some...] of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.”

²¹So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. ²²And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak¹, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it [] between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. ²⁴The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence. ²⁵And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

²⁶And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, and said, “We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. ²⁸Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.” ³⁰And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”

¹ Anak and the Anakim (his descendants) were very large and tall people, trained to be soldiers their whole lives (see Deuteronomy 9:2). The Philistine giants whom David encountered (including Goliath, 2Samuel 21:15-22) were descendants of the Anakim.

I. Introduction

A. One essential lesson in life is to have a motivating vision

1. Caleb's vision was service not survival
2. Christian vision is to thrive, not simply to survive
3. Christian vision flows from God & His Word

Romans 12:2 *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove [know] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

B. God has a specific vision for His church

1. Faithful witness to all the world in the power of His Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that [power when] the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

2. Christian churches should change the world

Acts 17:5–6 *But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy [the unsaved Jews were jealous (that other Jews had placed their faith in Christ)], took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar [gathered some troublemakers to form a mob and start a riot], and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them [Paul and Silas] out to the people.⁶ And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, "**These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also** [down have come here to upset our city]";*

C. For the Jews during the Exodus, ten of the 12 men had a fearful report about the current residents of the land they were to conquer.

Numbers 13:31 *But the men [the 10 fearful men] that went up with him [Caleb] said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we [the Army of Israel]."*

II. The Vision of Caleb's Faith (verse 30)

A. Caleb's faith based on Word of God

1. Original mission was to send 12 representatives to search out the land

Numbers 13:2 *Send thou [Moses] men, that they may search the land of Canaan [the land which must be conquered], which I [God] give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man [of each of the 12 tribes one man will be sent], everyone a ruler [a leader with authority] among them.*

2. God's covenant with Abraham included the promise of the land of Canaan

Genesis 12:1–3 *Now the LORD had said unto Abram [later renamed Abraham], Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred [family], and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:²And I will make of thee a great [numerous and wealthy] nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

B. Caleb's faith blessed by the power of God

1. Caleb had followed God with his whole heart from beginning to end
 - a. In the beginning Caleb urged the people to go up to possess the land (Numbers 13:30)
 - b. In the end, his inheritance was where his feet had previously walked

Joshua 14:9 *And Moses sware on that day [to Caleb], saying, **Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's forever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.***

2. God promises to supply all of our needs even in very difficult times

Philippians 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

3. Faith (trust) in God pleases Him

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

"Faith is trusting God's leading, then **stepping out** before you **figure out** how it will **work out**."

III. The Spirit of Caleb's Faith (Numbers 14:8 - 9)

- A. Caleb had the right belief

1. Joshua & Caleb told the children of Israel that the Lord was with them.

Numbers 14:6 - 9 *And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes [ripped their clothes, an indication of overwhelming grief and sadness]:⁷And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, "The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. ⁸**If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.** ⁹Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us [for we will devour them]: their defense is departed from them [they are not prepared to defend themselves], and **the LORD is with us: fear them not.**"*

2. Joshua & Caleb encouraged the children of Israel to trust the Lord and believe that He will give them the land (Numbers 14:8)

B. Caleb had the right attitude

1. Contrast the 2 opinions of the 12 representatives

- a. The majority report (10 men) brought a discouraging report about the residents of the land (

Numbers 13:32 *And they [the group of 10 spys] brought up an evil [discouraging] report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof [that consumes the people that live there (a phrase meant to cause the people to fear)]; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature [are tall and strong men].*

- b. Only Joshua & Caleb brought an encouraging report of the land (Numbers 14:7)

- c. The children of Israel tried to kill the 2 men who gave the minority report that they didn't like

Numbers 14:10 *But all the congregation bade stone them with stones [threatened to stone (kill) them]. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.*

- d. The Christian's heart attitude during all circumstances should be like that of Joshua and Caleb

Hebrews 13:6 *So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.***

2. Contrast the spirit of fear found in the majority (the 10) to the spirit of trust found in those who have confidence in God (Joshua & Caleb)

- a. I will trust in God

Psalm 56:3 *What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*

- b. I will renew the spirit of my mind

Ephesians 4:23--24 *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

3. Daniel is another example of a person with an excellent spirit

Daniel 6:3 *Then this Daniel was preferred [by the King of Babylon] above the presidents and princes [appointed officials], because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

- C. Both Caleb & David had the right devotion

Psalm 119:10 *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

IV. The Fervency of Caleb's Faith

- A. It was a loving fervency

1. God instructed the children of Israel how to love Him

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with **all thine heart**, and with **all thy soul**, and with **all thy might**. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:*

2. God also promised to return His love & provide for them

Deuteronomy 11:13-14 *And it shall come to pass [And this is what will happen], if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day [if you understand and obey my commandments], to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first [spring] rain and the latter [summer] rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.*

- B. It was a lasting fervency

1. Caleb was 40 years old when he looked over the land & Moses promised him that land. (Joshua 14:6-9)

2. Caleb was 85 years old when he went to secure his inheritance

Joshua 14:10-12 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me [Caleb] alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five [85] years old.¹¹As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.¹²Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakim [see footnote page 1] were there, and that the cities were great and fenced [large and well-defended]: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

3. Caleb finally received his inheritance

Judges 1:20 And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence [expelled from that place] the three sons of Anak. (see Joshua 15:4)

V. Conclusion

A. God's final comment on Caleb's faithfulness

Joshua 14:14–15 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁵And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba²; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

B. Stay in love with Jesus

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said unto him [one of the Pharisees who were questioning Jesus], Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment.

² Names are important in the Old Testament. The ability to change the name of a place in the Hebrew culture meant that you were in complete control of it and no longer respected the authority of the people who first named it. The ability to name something showed authority over it, as shown by Adam when he named all the animals (Genesis 2:19, 20) The name Kirjatharba (Genesis 23:2, Joshua 15:54, Joshua 20:7, Judges 1:10, and Nehemiah 11:25) simply means 'the city of Arba'. He was a particularly powerful giant, the father of Anak, ancestor of the Anakim. Caleb probably renamed the town to show that the fear of these giants has been superseded by the fear of one more powerful, the God of Israel. The name Hebron was one of the sons of Kohath the priest, a grandson of Levi, great-grandson of Jacob. Hebron and his brothers were in charge of moving the Tabernacle when Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Caleb and Hebron were probably good friends.