

We are looking at a remarkable moment in the history of Israel. The wilderness wanderings are over, the initial conquests of the north and central regions are winding down, and now comes the time for the inheritance to be divided. And right here, in the midst of the maps and the boundaries, we find this beautiful, personal story of a man named Caleb.

The Heart of a Faithful Spy

You'll remember that forty-five years prior to this, Moses sent twelve men to spy out—or "tour"—the land of Canaan. They went through the southern country, through the Valley of Eshcol and down toward Hebron. When they came back, ten of the spies were filled with fear. They saw the giants, they saw the high walls, and they felt like grasshoppers.

But Caleb and Joshua? They saw the same giants, but they saw a much bigger God. They brought back a cluster of grapes so large it took two men to carry it on a pole! Even today, if you go to that region around Hebron, you'll see some of the most beautiful table grapes in the world. Caleb saw the fruit of the land and he believed the promise of God.

The Strength of a Wholly Devoted Life

In verse six, Caleb comes to Joshua. Now, keep in mind, Caleb is eighty-five years old. Most folks at eighty-five are looking for a rocking chair, but not Caleb. He says to Joshua:

"I am this day eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain..." (Joshua 14:10-12)

I love the grit of this man! He wasn't asking for the easy valley; he was asking for the mountain where the giants—the Anakim—still lived. Why? Because Caleb knew that the victory didn't depend on his muscles, but on the faithfulness of God. Verse fourteen tells us the secret to his longevity and his courage: "because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel."

This isn't about "once saved, always saved" or "falling from grace" in a theological debate sense. This is about a man who simply took God at His Word and refused to let go. He didn't lean on his own understanding; he leaned on the Lord.

Practical Application for Us Today

What can we take home from Caleb's life?

1. **Faith is Not Subject to Your Age:** Whether you are eighteen or eighty-five, God has an inheritance for you. Don't retire from the Christian life. There are still mountains to be taken and giants to be defeated in the name of the Lord.
2. **Focus on the Promise, Not the Giant:** The ten spies focused on the obstacles and shrunk in their own sight. Caleb focused on the Lord and saw the obstacles as "bread for us." Your perspective determines your peace.

3. Wholeheartedness Matters: God isn't looking for part-time followers. He wants your whole heart, your whole mind, and your whole life.

A Challenge for the Believer

My brother, my sister, what is the "mountain" God has promised you that you've been hesitant to claim? Maybe it's a ministry, a broken relationship you need to restore, or a sin you need to finally conquer through the power of the Spirit. I challenge you today: stop looking at your own weakness. Caleb didn't say, "Look at how strong I am." He said, "If the Lord is with me, then I shall be able to drive them out." Step out in faith today. Wholly follow the Lord, and watch what He will do.

An Invitation to New Life

Perhaps you're reading this and you feel like those ten spies—fearful, wandering in a wilderness of your own making, feeling like a "grasshopper" under the weight of the world. I have glorious news for you.

You see, we couldn't conquer our own giants—sin and death. But Jesus Christ came and did it for us. He went to a cross, and there He shed His precious blood to pay the price for every wrong thing you've ever done. He was buried, but on the third day, He rose again! That resurrection declares to the whole world that He is God, He is Savior, and He is Lord.

He has already won the battle. You don't have to fight for victory; you can live *from* His victory. If you will turn from your own way today and put your trust in Him, He will forgive you, wash you clean, and give you an eternal inheritance that can never fade away. Why wander any longer? Give your life to Jesus today.