

# **Caleb**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Numbers 14:24.

B. The key to Caleb and us is that he had another Spirit.

C. Background.

1. The land of Canaan is a picture of the victorious life in Christ.
2. God brought us out that He might bring us in. (Deuteronomy 6:23)
3. The Lord saves us that our sins might be forgiven, but also that we might have a victorious life now.
4. The big battle is between God and the Devil. We get caught in the crossfire.
5. We can have victory in Christ now.

## II. The gospel is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

A. Jesus died to save us from penitent sin.

B. He rose to save us from the power of sin.

C. He will come again to save us from the presence of sin. (Ephesians 1:7)

## III. On Pentecost the Jews recognized that the Holy Spirit came to save and restrain until the saints were taken away.

A. This is where the one biblical Baptism occurs.

B. Abraham was saved looking forward to the atonement of Christ by faith and we are saved by looking back.

C. A lot happens when you receive Christ.

1. You become an heir.
2. You become reborn by position in truth.
3. Your name is written in the Book of Life.
4. You will reign with Christ.

5. You become an heir of what is in Christ.
6. You were resided by the Holy Spirit. (John 14)
  - a. We live although we are crucified with Christ. (Galatians 2:20)
  - b. It is the powerful life that is given now that gives us victory over sin.
7. You will be saved from the presence of sin. (Philippians 3:20-21)
8. You are reconciled and shall be saved from the power of sin by God's life. (Romans 5)

D. The Old Testament stories were written for us. (1 Corinthians 10:11, Romans 15:4)

IV. Principles from the example of Caleb in Numbers 14.

A. Moses chose men of maturity and faithfulness.

B. The people were stronger than they were, but their sufficiency was of God. (2 Corinthians 3:5)

1. The people were of big stature.
2. Most of the jobs that God has for us are bigger than we are.
3. We can only tackle these tasks in God's strength.

C. Wrong things to do.

1. Criticize leadership.
2. Remove leadership.
3. Ask God for things you do not want. (Romans 5)
4. Doubt God. (Philippians 1:12, Proverbs 15:4)
5. Build up stories against God in our mind. (2 Corinthians 10:5)

D. We often refuse to accept the promises and commandments of God because the conditions are not right. (Joshua 2:8, Psalm 38)

E. Caleb was spared from destruction because he had another Spirit in him.

F. The people did not realize that God could look out for children. For their disbelief, they would not inherit the land. (Matthew 18)

V. The story continued in Joshua 14:6.

- A. The people were defeated because they did not do what God wanted in His timing.
- B. Caleb reviews the promises, problems and convictions.

C. Caleb's land was given to him as an inheritance.

1. Caleb waited for forty-five years for his inheritance.
2. Caleb lived according to his convictions and stayed away from the ways of the world.
3. Caleb did not ask Joshua for more than what God promised. A soldier should only ask for what he needs to distinguish himself on the field of battle.
4. Caleb went back to the anchor of God's will, Word and promises.

D. Storms of life will come, but obedience gives stability in the midst of those storms.

**Application questions**

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

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

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

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