

**Caleb: Whole-Hearted Follower**  
**Numbers 14:1-10, Joshua 14:6-15, 15:13-14**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** We can get disillusioned about God and the church when we forget that spirituality is about God and his agenda—not about us and ours. Caleb was so full of joy and energy because he understood and embraced this.

**I) The secret of Caleb's vitality**

**A) He was a person of faith**

*v. 10: And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive just as he aid...since the time the Lord spoke this word to Moses*

1) The back story: *Numbers 13-14*

2) Some observations about faith

- A person of faith does not simply believe God exists
- Caleb is not the poster-child for American the 'can-do' spirit

**B) His faith was "whole-hearted"**

*v.7: ...I brought him word again as it was on my heart.*

*v.8:...yet I wholly followed the Lord my God (v. 9, v. 14)*

1) What does whole-heartedness mean?

- Only one master

2) What does whole-heartedness do?

- Obeys with joyful energy: *v 12: So now give me this hill country!*
- *Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:24*

**C) His faith was humble**

*v. 12:...It may be that...I shall drive them out...*

God loves us. But he does not exist to make our plans work

**II) Learning from Caleb**

**A) Cultivate a missional mindset**

- The status quo is never completely right and will not last.

**B) Do something missional**

### Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Reflect on the following: “One of the reasons we get disillusioned with God and the church is that we think that spirituality is all about us when in fact it isn’t. Spirituality is about God and his purposes, not about us and ours. What gave Caleb such energy well into old age was the fact that he embraced this.
- 2) Read Numbers 13-14. In what ways do Caleb and Joshua stand out from the rest of Israel?
- 3) A person of faith does not simply believe God exists (Israel believed that in Numbers 13); he or she believes what God says (notice all the reference to divine speech in Joshua 14:9-12). Why is this distinction important? Why is it important to God?
- 4) What’s wrong with using Caleb as a poster child for American entrepreneurialism (“Just look at Caleb? He took on those giants even when he was 85! You can too! You can make that business fly! You can make that church grow! You can reach your dreams!”)
- 5) To say that Caleb was ‘whole-hearted’ is to say that his heart was not divided. When faced with the choice between what he saw (‘giants in the land’) and what he heard (‘I give you this land’), he chose the latter and repudiated the latter. Jesus says that it is not possible to serve two masters. Why is this so? What good things in life are you tempted to turn into god-substitutes?
- 6) Look up Galatians 2:20 and Galatians 5:24. John Stott maintains that, while the sound similar, they are actually talking about two different things. The first passage talks about the great victory that has been one for us in Christ. The second passage describes the ongoing struggle. Compare this difference to the parallel difference between Joshua 14:13 and Joshua 15:14. How does the promise of Galatians 2:20 (and Joshua 14:13) energize us for the hard work described in Galatians 5:24 (and Joshua 15:14)?
- 7) Why does Caleb say, “It may be...” half way through vs. 12? Is he expressing weak faith, or is he expressing strong faith by these words? Consider the words of Shadrach and his friends in Daniel 3:16-18.
- 8) What is one thing you are doing, or can do, to keep your life regularly in the mainstream of God’s mission to the world?