

KEEP YOUR EYES ON GOD

Joshua 14:6-15 Key verse: 14

Introduction: Not very many people stay steadfast in faithfulness and obedience to God. All of us try but there are so many distractions and so many weaknesses. However every once in a while there is someone who stands out from the rest and is an example to everyone else in being able to remain loyal and faithful to God. Caleb was such a person.

At the age of 85 Caleb interrupted an important business meeting among the Israelites and Joshua when he stepped out of the crowd and claimed something God had promised him 45 years earlier. How would anyone remember anything that far back? What was Caleb's secret?

I. THIS MAN HAD A FAITH THAT NEVER WANDERED OR FAINTED

1. Caleb was one of the 12 men chosen 45 years earlier to spy out the promised land.
 - 10 of the 12 men brought back a negative report that the land just could not be taken.
 - It was Joshua and Caleb that said that the land could be taken with God's help.
 - All 12 men had seen the same things, the beautiful land, and also the people who appeared to be giants and had all sorts of instruments of war.
 - The 10 men who gave the negative report had measured the giants against their own size and military strength which wasn't all that much.
 - The other two men (Joshua and Caleb) had compared the giants and their military strength against God.
 - Sadly, Israel drew back in fear because of the majority's report.
2. Because of his faith, God promised Caleb a special portion of the promised land.
 - *"...because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went..." (v24)*
 - Caleb had never grumbled or was faint at heart. He never wished he was back in Egypt. He had seen what God could do and had seen the promised land and that was good enough for him.

II. HIS STRENGTH NEVER GREW WEAK

1. At the age of 85, Caleb was as strong as he was at 40! Now that is remarkable.
 - His faith enabled him to lay hold of God and he drew strength from God, Himself.
 - History reveals that only Caleb was successful in driving out all the enemy from his land. All the other tribes never did and had at least three of the giant men to contend with plus their armies.
2. Most of our problems as Christians are caused by our failure to drive out the enemy in our life. Failure to drive out the enemy is always due to completely following the Lord. Utter obedience is absolutely necessary to drive out the enemies in our life.

III. CALEB HAD A BLESSING THAT HE NEVER WASTED

1. On the land that God had given Caleb were two springs, one on the upper side and one on the lower side. Caleb gave those two springs to his daughter and son-in-law as wedding gifts.
2. What God had blessed Caleb with, he in turn shared it with someone else.
 - The blessings in his life he shared with other people.
3. Have YOU been sharing with others what God has blessed you with?

IV. HE HAD A LOVE FOR GOD THAT NEVER WEAKENED

1. When 40, Caleb had spied out the promised land with the other 11 men and found one place that caught his attention and captured his heart.
 - It was not the groves nor the vineyards, or the green pastures, or the cities on the plains.
 - It was a mountain called Kirjath-arba
2. On this mountain Kirjath-arba Abraham had met God face to face and had received instructions from God about the promised land.
3. Caleb loved that mountain from the first moment he saw it and determined that someday, if God allowed, he would have it. **AND HE DID!**
 - Caleb later changed the name of the mountain to Mt. Hebron. "Hebron" meaning fellowship, love, and communion.
4. If you think about it, God has such a place for every one of His children but Satan keeps trying to keep believers from ever getting to it. Satan offers so many things to believers to take instead of God's promised place.
5. Christians need to be more like Caleb in determination to have what God has shown and promised them that they shall have.

CONCLUSION:

1. The secret to Caleb's patience, faith, and victory in having Hebron was that he had caught a glimpse, he had seen Hebron and that was what God said he could have.
2. He was rewarded for his faithfulness. ***"...Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenzite unto this day, because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel..." (14:14)***
3. The believer's "Hebron" is heaven and the sight of such a place should be enough for the believer to be as Caleb.
4. If believers will keep their eyes on God as did Caleb, then their reward will also be great.