



15 | JOSHUA 14-15

GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN

The believer can conquer anything through faith.

Outline

The Land of Victory

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Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing praises to Him; and tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! —Psalm 105:1-4

Songs

Living Hope

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

He Will Hold Me Fast

Is He Worthy?

By Faith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us. So good to have Jim and Lydia Johnson with us from Brazil.

GIVING: You can still give over Zelle through your bank with no fees.

Use secretary@livinghopechurch.net.

We also have a collection box on the Welcome Center

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Children's Church is available for ages 2-6 at the start of the sermon

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Currently Jerry Soen is teaching a class on Abraham for men only and Pastor Mike is continuing his class on Creation, Man, and Sin

FALL BACK: Remember to turn your clocks back one hour for next week or you'll be an hour early for church

NO MIDWEEK SERVICE

LIFE GROUPS: Life Groups are in full swing! If you need a group check with one of the pastors or elders and we will get you connected. There will be no Midweek service on Life Group weeks. Check with your Life Group leader to confirm meeting dates and locations. All meet on Wednesdays at 7pm.

Leader: Matt Black; Host: Cerrillos, Elgin

Leader: Mike Klikas, online

Leaders: Marcel Reid/Jerry Soen; Host: Andrews, Carol Stream

Leader: Mike Tiberi; Host: Poldermans, Bartlett

Introduction

We continue in a series in the book of Joshua called "Footsteps of Faith." Our title this morning is: "Give Me This Mountain".

How vital it is to learn how to grow in faith and trust in God's promises. In Joshua 14 and 15, we see that Caleb finally gets to conquer the giants in the land and take some of the land of Judah, namely Hebron, for his family. Hebron is a land of **fullness** and **fruitfulness**, and it's a place of mountains and hills where he would **fellowship** with God. In fact, that's what the name Hebron means: "fellowship".

Key thought: If you will learn to conquer all enemies and idols in the heart by faith, you can live in joyful victory and uninterrupted fellowship with God.

You see, for the Christian, victory is uninterrupted fellowship with God. Did you know so many Christians today are earning a living while they're wasting and losing their lives? They are drawing their breath and drawing their salary, but they're living defeated lives because they have unsundered hearts.

I want to ask you, are you living on the mountain of victory, or are you living in the wilderness of despair and frustration? Caleb is the prototype of the victorious believer. You ought to be that prototype as well. He didn't want to go halfway with God. He wanted the total victory that God promised. Do you want that?

The Land of Victory

The book of Joshua is more than history, it is an **illustration of the victory that a New Testament Christian** is to have. The Bible says of the Old Testament's record:

Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction. –1 Corinthians 10:11

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. –Romans 15:4

The Victorious Christian Life

What does the land of Canaan represent for the Christian? It represents the land of victory and rest for the Christian: a life of victory over sin. Let me illustrate that.

Coming into Canaan meant **release from slavery** for them. Up until this time they'd been a nation of slaves. Aren't you tired of being the devil's slave? He says, "Jump" and you say, "How high?"

Aren't you glad that "who the Son sets free is free indeed"? –John 8:36

For the Christians, that means we are no longer slaves to the impulses of sin. We've been set free! And it is said of every child of God: "

Sin shall not have dominion over you. –Romans 6:14

So there is a release from slavery and freedom.

But there is also a **rest** that comes from living in victory and fellowship with God. Jesus said:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. –Matthew 11:28

Up until this time God's people had been wandering round and round in the desert over the burning, blistering, broiling desert floor. And, now they enter into a land that the Bible says was a land of rest. They have to learn to defeat the enemy so they can have rest all around them. Oh, I see so many Christians who have everything but rest. They are so **anxious**; they are so frustrated and even **angry**; they are **despairing** and depressed. They don't know what to do. They are not living for the Kingdom, but for the world. God had said to Moses:

My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. –Exodus 33:14

Up until this time God's people had been living in the wilderness, just heard sermons about Canaan and that was all, and now they **see** it for themselves. I want you to see the life of rest and peace, joy and righteousness in the Holy Spirit for you. There is a baptism, a filling of the Spirit with power that will not only bring you rest, but a new anointing for service. The Spirit will clothe you with power, but only if you want it more than you want to breathe.

My heart's desire is for this congregation to experience the genuine resurrection power that Christ has already won, bought and paid for. It would be wonderful. Oh, that you would hold of your inheritance in your spiritual Canaan, the victorious Christian life that God has for you. Are you living for the world to come?

Joshua and Caleb Representations

Well, whom does Joshua represent? Joshua who led them in that day is an illustration and a type of Jesus. That is the Old Testament name for Jesus is Joshua, and Joshua represents Christ who leads us into the land of victory. And, Caleb, who does he represent? Well, we'll let Caleb represent you, all right? Caleb representing the Christian about to conquer his Canaan, about to possess his possessions, about to receive the promises that God has given to him.

So let's discover the way to the Spirit-filled, power-endued Christian life. Is there any other kind of Christian life? How do we get there? Let's look at four marks of the victorious believer.

1. **GODLY CHARACTER** (14:1-9, 14)

So many Christians are failing in the Christian life because they are aiming for behavior, when God aims for character deep down in the **heart**. We aim for the external, when God aims for the **internal**. We see this clearly in the life of Caleb. Caleb had such power because he walked with God in his heart.

Imagine what would happen if someone unplugged all your home appliances. Your refrigerator, microwave, and oven would be utterly useless. How long could you live that way, with no ability to make food? It wouldn't be long before you figured out the problem and plugged everything back in to the power source.

Like those appliances, we too, are dependent on a power source. Jesus used the example of the vine and branches to illustrate it. He said:

Without me you can do nothing. –John 15:5

Are you connected to the Vine? Do you have a power source? That's what makes for godly character. It's to have a heart pulsating for Christ.

THE PLACE OF GODLY CHARACTER

Leaders are expendable, but our inheritance is inexhaustible. We need to make sure the next generation is engaged, trained, and ready. God's plan is not bound to your lifetime but encompasses the coming generations. That means the next generation needs to be prepared. It is incumbent upon every believer to do everything you can to train up the next generation. We see this clearly in Joshua's life, as he nears the end.

Joshua 14:6-9 | Then the people of Judah came to **Joshua** at Gilgal. And **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. ⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my

heart.⁸ But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet **I wholly followed the Lord my God.**⁹ And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because **you have wholly followed the Lord my God.**'

Joshua 14:14 | Therefore **Hebron** became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because **he wholly followed the Lord**, the God of Israel.

Three times God said it. Caleb was an unusual man who followed God's command to love God wholeheartedly. He followed the greatest commandment.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. –Deuteronomy 6:5

In verse 8 Caleb says: "**I wholly followed the Lord my God.**" What was he saying? He was **willing to die** to follow God into the Promised Land. He wanted to please God more than he wanted to breathe. Literally. Caleb (along with Joshua) had the courage to **stand alone** and give a minority report (Num. 13:30) even though it nearly cost him his life (Num. 14:6–10). Everyone else said, "There are giants in the Land!" But Caleb and Joshua said, "We have a giant, infinite, almighty God in heaven! We can possess the land! The Lord is with us."¹

Caleb was a man who gave God all that there was of him: every inch, every ounce, every nerve, every fiber. All there was of Caleb he gave to the Lord. He had completely given everything to his Lord.

Do you see? Here is this 85-year-old man, and **he doesn't say, "I'm tired. I've given my all, so I'm giving up."** No. He wholly followed the Lord. He never forgot God's promises. He took God at his Word in the depths of his heart.

That's where you will find victory. You can't white knuckle holiness in your behavior. It comes from a radical change of heart. Caleb refused to let frustration or fear rule him. **A vision of the greatness and majesty of God chased the fear and frustration and unbelief right out of him!**

THE PATH TO GODLY CHARACTER

I wonder how many in this congregation could say that this morning. "I have given everything to Jesus Christ. As far as I know, I want that total commitment to God." You say, "I'm serious. I refuse to be halfhearted." Amen. You see, the halfhearted will be the faint hearted and they will never conquer their Canaan.

Dwight L. Moody

You know about Dwight L. Moody, the great Chicago evangelist. He had a deeper experience with the Lord when some were praying for him. I want to tell you about an epic event in the life of Dwight L. Moody that he said was one of the **turning points in his**

¹ Dale Ralph Davis, *Joshua: No Falling Words*, Focus on the Bible Commentary (Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2000), 114.

ministry. Moody first of all started out as a shoe salesman and then he became a Sunday school teacher. We know he later became a mighty evangelist. He went to England for the first time in 1867, and he met Charles H. Spurgeon, and George Muller and came back. But he didn't have the manifest power in his ministry that he was known for later in his ministry.

But something powerful happened the second time Moody was in England in 1870. He heard another evangelist preach in a field in an outdoor meeting. The evangelist's name was Henry Varley. He said,

“The world has yet to see what God can do in and through and with and for a man wholly committed to him.” Dwight L. Moody, responded, “By the grace of God I will be that man. I want to be wholly, completely dedicated to him.”

Now God tested him and took everything from him. In the great Chicago fire, Moody lost his church the Illinois Street Church (later Moody Church) and his own home. But Moody was consecrated to God. And, God took this relatively unlettered, uncultured, untrained shoe clerk and used him to shake two continents for God. Like Caleb, Moody was wholly, completely dedicated to the Lord.

Listen, we need Bible knowledge. You need the local church. But without a heart saturated with Christ, it's all nothing. It's vain. Almighty God wants your heart, a total commitment to him.

What part of the wilderness is God asking you to give up? What part of Egypt are you still hiding in your heart? Caleb said, “I don't want the wilderness. I want the Promised Land.”

THE PATTERN OF GODLY CHARACTER

There are many examples of this commitment to godly character. Ephesians tells us we need to put off the idolatry of the old life, renew your heart and mind, and put on the worship of the new life. I really appreciate how Galatians 5 puts it.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. –Galatians 5:16, 24

As always, real change must happen in the heart. You can't just change the outward. Christ has to rule and reign in the depths of your heart. There is always a focus on Christ in all biblical change. “I want to be like Christ” is the believer's cry for repentance. “That Christ may increase, and I may decrease” as John the Baptist said.

You will not gratify the desires of the flesh that indicate idolatry: anger and fear, foolishness, and despair. **Anger**, rage, frustration: it's all murder. It's all unbelief.

CRUCIFY THE FLESH!

Anger says: “I am god”. **Fear** says: “There is no God.” **Despair** says: “God doesn't care.” **Foolishness** says, “I don't care. I want to escape.”

One gaze of faith to Christ defeats them all. **You have to turn your gaze and desire from the idol and look to Christ from the heart.**

For instance, what is it that makes you angry? What is it that makes you fear? Do you fear losing the comfort of a relationship? Then you are worshipping the comfort of that relationship in place of your relationship with Christ. You'll never be happy in that relationship until you surrender it fully to Christ. Give Christ the reigns. Trust him. You'll know you have surrendered when you stop with the anger and pride, the foolishness and fear, the despair. You'll have the peace of God ruling in your heart no matter what happens.

What do you live for? What makes you truly happy? If it's not Christ, that's your idol. What do you get mad if you can't get it? Is it the peace that comes from financial stability or good health? You had better surrender those things, because the fear and anger and despair that comes from holding so tightly to those things is idolatrous. You've got to surrender everything in your heart to God. The only true pleasure comes from Christ. **Everything else compared to Christ is "dung".**

If your heart is attracted to anything else than Christ, you are going to be in for some real misery. No one compares to Christ. That's the first step in victorious living. You have to put off the old life and look to Christ. Renew your mind. Then you can start putting on the new life.

Caleb was a man of godly character. He loved God more than he wanted to breathe. But there was another mark of his victorious life we need to see.

2. CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S WORD (14:6-12)

You've got to have clear vision if you are going to live victoriously in the land of your inheritance. Caleb's vision was so absolutely clear because of God's Word.

Joshua 14:6-12 | ... Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him [JOSHUA], "You know **what the Lord said** to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. ⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. ⁸But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the Lord my God. ⁹And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.' ¹⁰And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. ¹¹I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. ¹²So now give me this hill country **of which the Lord spoke on that day**, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were

there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out **just as the Lord said.**"

David said:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. – Psalm 119:105

Caleb had the same lamp. He could see clearly.

If you don't see the clear path to victory, you are not consistently reading God's Word.

Caleb said, "I'm going to have this mountain. I'm going to have this victory over the giants, *just as the Lord said.*" Over and over, he's taking God at his Word.

"You know what the Lord said to Moses" (vs 6).

"Moses swore on that day, saying" (vs 9).

"Now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day" (vs 12a).

"It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the Lord said" (vs 12b).

Listen to Caleb. "God said, God said, God said!" He could see clearly because he trusted in God's Word.

He said, "I'm going to take the land of Hebron, the land of **fellowship**, just as God said. Yes, I see giants, but they look small compared to my great God. I'm banking on what God said." Do you hear his confidence? He wasn't wearing the glasses of the flesh. All he could see was his great God, because of the Word of God.

Caleb's battle-ax was the Word of God.

Caleb had a mountain he needed to conquer. His battle-ax, his tank, his weapon, was the promises in God's Word. That's how he got connected to the power of God. He walked in the Word.

Some of you are willing to memorize the Word. You are willing to casually listen to the Word. But are you willing to *walk* in the Word and obey it? Are you willing to risk your reputation, your relationships, your future like Caleb did? Caleb was willing to stand alone on the Word of God. He did stand alone, with only Joshua by his side, for 40 years. He knew God's Word was true, and he sacrificed everything for that victory. He wasn't going to die in the wilderness.

Where are you? Is there a clear pattern of walking in God's Word in your life, or is there wilderness wandering?

God had given Caleb that mountain and hill country of Hebron. Caleb went up that mountain with the sword of God's Word in his hand. With that light, the giants looked so tiny. They looked defeated. His confidence and his clear vision came out of the Word of God.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ –Romans 10:17

If you want to see clearly, you've got to walk by faith in the Scriptures. The Word will cut away any kind of cancer blocking your vision. The Bible says,

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. –Hebrews 4:12-13

Caleb walked into victory by walking on the sure foundation of God's Word. How would you like it if you bought a house, and the builder says: it's brand new. It's in perfect condition. You walk in, and you don't get two feet in the house, and the floor caves in, and you are in the basement? That's what it's like to live your life for idols and lies. Idols always promise you so much, but they leave you angry, depressed, defeated, afraid, and lied to.

You better take God's Word, soak your soul in it, saturate yourself with it, hide God's Word in your heart so you can say, "God has said." The Word alone will expose the world's lies. Do you know what God has said in this book? Do you understand the great eternal rock-ribbed promises of this book? Do you know them? Do you know what made Caleb such a great man? Caleb believed the Word of God and refused to believe what his eyes told him. **His eyes saw giants. God's Word gave him glasses to see those giants as defeated foes.**

So Caleb shows us the prototype of the New Testament believer, living in victory. He had godly **character**: his heart was plugged in to God. He had a **confidence** in God's Word. He could see clearly.

But, thirdly, his feet moved, with the **courage** he had. He was willing to defeat the enemy.

3. COURAGE AGAINST THE ENEMY (14:7-12)

Caleb's confidence in God's Word led to Caleb's courage. You see, you'll never be bold, you'll never have courage, you'll never do valiantly until you have a pure heart and you've hidden the Word of God in your heart. But, when that happens, then you're going to have the kind of a courage that God wants you to have.

What a glorious hill country Hebron was. Hebron is the richest place. You can see the vineyards today. It was that place where when Caleb and the spies went over they came carrying out of Hebron a bunch of grapes that took two to carry on a pole. Why, it was a land that flowed with milk and honey, corn and wine, grapes, figs, pomegranates, all of it there. It was a rich land, but there were some dangerous adversaries. You know nothing great is ever done in a rocking chair. If you're looking for a cheap way, an easy way, a lazy way to be victorious, forget it. Caleb had some opposition that he had to overcome, but I want you to know that the door to the room of opportunity swings on the hinges of opposition and God has planned it that way. There's a great effectual door opened unto us, but there are many adversaries.

COURAGE TO OVERCOME GRASSHOPPERS

I want you to notice some of the adversaries that Caleb had to overcome through his courage. In the first place he had to overcome grasshoppers.

Joshua 14:7-8 | I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. ⁸ But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the Lord my God

How did they make the heart of the people melt? We find this in Numbers 13:33. Here's what the other ten men said when they came back.

They said, "There we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." –Numbers 13:33

Caleb's fellow soldiers had a grasshopper complex. Don't be a grasshopper. You say, "There are too many giants in that land, nobody could ever live that way." And, do you know before a church does anything good or great it has to overcome the grasshoppers? The grasshoppers, there are plenty of them. People who sit around and say, "It can't be done, it won't be done, it shouldn't be done." These people are content to retreat back and live in the comparative safety of the desert wilderness because there are no giants out there. No, there are no grapes out there either, but that's where most folks are living. They are failing to possess their possessions because they have a grasshopper complex. Thank God that Caleb didn't follow the majority. Caleb overcame grasshoppers before he overcame giants.

COURAGE TO OVERCOME GIANTS

It's one thing to face grasshoppers, but God also wants us to overcome giants.

Joshua 14:12 | "Now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the **Anakim** were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and **I shall drive them out just as the Lord said.**"

If you get up high enough and you look down, even the most giant of things look pretty small.

Now, what are Anakims? That's not something you take for a headache, like an advanced Advil or Aspirin. No these giants would give you headaches. The dreadful Anakim with "great fortified cities" (14:12). The Anakims were giants. There were giants in those days. I mean, great, huge giants. Caleb said, "I shall drive them out just as the Lord said."

Not only did Caleb have to face the grasshoppers, Caleb had to face the giants. And, oh there are some giants. But, Caleb wasn't bothered by those giants. As a matter of fact, he was kind of excited they were there.

Do you know what Caleb said he first saw those giants for the first time in Numbers 14, so many decades earlier when he was just 40 years old?

If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them.” –Numbers 14:8-9

Did you hear that? They are bread for us. We are going to eat them for lunch. What Caleb says, “We’re going to eat them alive. They are bread for us. Their protection is removed.” Do you know what bread is? Bread is something you eat to strengthen you and to enlarge you. Caleb said, “These giants will not be the means of our defeat, they will be the means of our growth. We’re going to feed upon them.”

Caleb sat down at the table and said, “Pass the Anakim please.” Now, you think about it. You think about it. A mother has to tell a little child, “Junior, eat your spinach.” “I don’t want any spinach.” “Eat your spinach.” “I don’t want it.” “Eat it. It is good for you.” “I don’t want it. Don’t like it.” “Make you grow.” “Don’t like it.”

Do you know what God has to say to us? “Now, dear, eat your Anakim. Eat your Anakim.” “I don’t want to fight any giants.” “Go ahead, it’s good for you.” “No, I’d just rather not.” “Go ahead and eat them.” I want to tell you, dear friend, **Anakim is the breakfast of champions**. Did you know that?

A Winning Perspective

Be willing to face the giants. **We are all seated in the heavenlies with Jesus**. That means we are moving forward from the place of highest victory. The heavenlies is another way of saying, where Jesus’ throne is. I’m already fighting from a position of total victory and annihilation. Jesus hasn’t just won a little: he’s won it all, entirely. It is finished. The battle’s over. The war is won!

Look, you’ve been trying to get out of difficulty. You’ve been saying, “I don’t want to face any problems. I don’t want any difficulty.” Don’t you know that the difficulties that God gives you are the very things that will make you strong? They are bread. Sit down. Gobble them up. Listen to Isaiah.

No weapon that is formed against you will prosper. –Isaiah 54:17

These are not difficulties to paralyze you, but opportunities to grow you. I heard about a man who went to Africa as a shoe salesman. He stayed over there a while and wired his company back, he said, “Get me out of here.” They said, “Why?” He said, “The people over here don’t wear shoes.” So, they brought him home and sent another man. He stayed there a few weeks and he wrote back and he said, “Send me all the shoes you can get, I’ve never seen so many prospects.”

You need to look at a giant from God’s viewpoint. You need to stop saying, “Look how much bigger he is than I am.” You need to start saying, “Look how much smaller he is than God is.” We are seated with Jesus in the Heavenlies. We need to see the opposition from his viewpoint.

Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. –1 John 4:4

And, there is not a giant of doubt, and a giant of distress, and a giant of fear, and a giant of sin that should not fall before a Christian filled with the Holy Spirit. We are to be living victoriously. We are to have the Word of God in our heart and we are to believe God for victory. We need to say, “I want that mountain. It belongs to me.” You get that victory of perfect peace and joy in Christ.

COURAGE TO OVERCOME GREY HAIRS

There was something else Caleb needed courage to overcome: his own grey hairs! Listen to Caleb in

Joshua 14:10-11a | And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. ¹¹I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me...

Caleb says: I’m as strong now as I was when I was forty years old. He says,

And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. ¹¹I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me. —Joshua 14:10-11

Listen Caleb knew the ultimate statistic: 10 out of 10 people die. But he also knew that “the joy of the Lord” was his strength.

God supernaturally preserved him. Now we ought never retire; we just retread. There may be a new ministry, a new calling, but there is never an end to your calling. God has called each one of us to a particular calling. You serve God in that calling.

And when grey hairs come, you get excited. This is the most productive and fruitful time of your life. Our goal as Christians is not to retire and pick up seashells. How sad. We are called to make disciples. We are called to slay giants.

Caleb was an 85-year-old giant slayer! Hallelujah!

4. ENJOYMENT OF CONQUEST (14:12-15; 15:14)

There is great joy in the victorious Christian life. Our lives should not be all over the place, based on our trials, our circumstances, or our problems. Whether you are in a prison or in a palace, Jesus is King and Savior, and that should be enough for true contentment and happiness. What does this kind of joy in conquest look like? Let’s get Caleb’s vantage point here in Joshua 14 and 15.

THE MOUNTAIN’S FELLOWSHIP

This hill country was the land of Hebron, which means “fellowship”. This was not merely a physical inheritance, but a place where Caleb would walk in fellowship with God. Victory is God’s plan for you. Do you know what the name Hebron means? It means “fellowship.” That’s what it means. And, Caleb is saying, “I want that mountain called ‘fellowship with God.’” Everything good comes out of your fellowship with God.

What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the

Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. –1 John 1:3-4

The followers of Jesus knew that true happiness could only come from constant fellowship with God.

THE MOUNTAIN'S FRUITFULNESS

This was a land flowing with milk and honey, a place of rich **fruitfulness**. Caleb had waited for this satisfaction and sustenance. But he had to enter in and claim it for his own. Here were grapes from the vineyards that took a group of men to carry them out. Isn't that where you want to live? Wouldn't you like to live on the mountaintop of fellowship with God? Wouldn't you like for your life to be like a vineyard full of fruitfulness?

Is your life fruitful? Look at your family around you. Are you reaching them, discipling them? Look at your co-workers. Look at your connections and friends. Are you bearing fruit? We are to bear fruit both personally and externally: in myself and in others.

Do you have fruit in your own life? Jesus tells us how to bear fruit in John 15.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. –John 15:1-5

In your heart, you have to constantly be putting off idols by living fruitfulness of a life connected and plugged in to Christ. Do you want the fruit of peace and joy and righteousness to affect your heart and the lives of others? Start bearing fruit.

For some of you that means you need to take a step into a serious discipleship relationship where there is almost serious weekly encouragement and accountability.

For a lot of you, fruit means you need to be that disciple maker.

For all of us, that means we need to be connected and plugged in to our Vine!

THE MOUNTAIN'S FULLNESS

Caleb was not experiencing the fullness of the mountain because of the Anakim, the giants. Do you know Caleb took the whole hill country of Hebron? Do you know what that stands for? Fullness. All that God had for him. That meant Caleb had no fear going against the giants in the land. We read about it in Joshua 15.

According to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, he gave to Caleb the son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak). ¹⁴ And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi, the descendants of Anak. –Joshua 15:13-14

Arba was the father of the land of the giants. Caleb wasn't afraid of the Anakim. Caleb was willing to cast out the giants in the land. He wouldn't settle to live with them. He wanted them completely defeated, because he wanted the fullness of the land and the fullness of God. He wanted to fellowship with God in the hill country of the land of fellowship: Hebron.

We must cast down every idol, cast out every foe if we are to have the fullness of the Spirit. The Spirit, and nothing else, must have full control.

Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. –Ephesians 5:18

This fullness is for believers. You must surrender all idols, all enemies of the soul, and be under the control of the Holy Spirit. **You must want nothing less than the fullness of the Spirit.** You must want nothing less than full surrender.

The South African Pastor of the 1800s, Andrew Murray said it so clearly:

We cannot be filled with the Spirit until we are prepared to yield ourselves to be led by the Lord Jesus—to forsake and sacrifice everything for this pearl of great price. –Andrew Murray

Here is another quote by Murray.

“Why should a Christian be called upon always to deny himself, his own feeling, and will, and pleasure? Why must he part with his life—that life to maintain which a man is prepared to make any sacrifice? Why should a man hate and lose his life?

The answer is very simple. It is because that life is so completely under the power of sin and death that it has to be utterly denied and sacrificed. The self-life must be wholly taken away to make room for the life of God. He that would have the full, the overflowing life of God, must utterly deny and lose his own life.” –Andrew Murray

Surrender your **reputation**, and you will be free from the praise of man. Surrender what anyone thinks of you. You have to do that.

Surrender your **peace** and comfort and security based on circumstances. Stop fighting for that. Stop loving the world. You need to rest in the peace and security you already have in Christ's kingdom.

Surrender your **lust** for more and more and more in **possessions**. You don't need to buy another thing to be happy. Surrender those purchases that will never make you happy and be content with the infinite riches you have in Christ.

Surrender your need for **pleasure**, and find that all pleasure flows from the fountain of Christ, and until you have Christ ruling, you really cannot truly enjoy anything.

Surrender your need to have **power** and be in control. Put off anger, and put on that meek and gentle spirit of Jesus. Learn to solve problems in kindness and not in hatred and anger, which is the spirit of murder and destruction. Be kind and lay yourself down for others while you solve problems.

Surrender all to Jesus, and he will give you “all the fullness of God” and the “fullness of the Spirit.” You will not lack anything.

Jesus said, “whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” –John 4:14

Conclusion

Are you ready to stop being wilderness dwellers and start being mountain climbers? I want that mountain called *Fellowship with God*. Whatever you need to do to get that fountain is worth it. Whatever God is asking you to forsake is 10,000 times worth it. Don't stop. Be like Jacob and wrestle with God, and say, “I won't let you go until you bless me.” You take the Lord up on his promises. You say, “Lord, give me this mountain.”