

# Caleb's Choice

Joshua 14:12

- Faith
- Experience
- Strength
- Willingness

The lesson is entitled, "**Caleb's Choice**".

There is Not much revealed in the Scriptures about CALEB,  
BUT we have enough to put him before us, as one of the most inspiring examples of faith.

In [Numbers Chapters 13-14](#), we have recorded for us, unbending devotion of principle, from two spies.

Caleb's Choice is most interesting. Notice the context from [Josh.14:5-14](#).

- <sup>5</sup> As the Lord commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did, and they divided the land.  
<sup>6</sup> Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal:  
and **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him,  
Thou knowest the thing that the Lord said unto Moses the man of God  
concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea.  
  
<sup>7</sup> Forty years old was I, 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 mine heart.  
<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me  
made the heart of the people melt (...melt with fear, is the idea):  
but **I wholly followed the Lord my God.**  
  
<sup>9</sup> And Moses swore on that day, saying,  
Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden **shall be thine inheritance**, and thy children's for ever,  
**because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.**  
  
<sup>10</sup> And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord  
spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness:  
and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five (or 85) years old.  
  
<sup>11</sup> As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me:  
as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.  
<sup>12</sup> Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day;  
for thou heardest in that day how the Anak-ims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced:  
**IF so be the Lord will be WITH me, then I shall be ABLE** to drive them out, as the Lord said.  
  
<sup>13</sup> And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.  
<sup>14</sup> **Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day,  
**because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel."** ([Josh.14:5-14](#))

What a wonderful example, by an aged Patriarch.

Let's examine his mind to understand why he chose a difficult task, rather than retire and take it easy on the fertile plain.

## I. Caleb's Choice was Based on his Faith

### A. Not in himself, but in the promise of God

Notice again, [Josh.14:9](#),

- "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'The land on which your foot has walked shall certainly be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have **FOLLOWED** the Lord my God **FULLY**.'"

The task may have looked impossible for a man of 85,  
But not to God, or one with Caleb's attitude.

- "for we walk by Faith, **NOT** by sight" ([2Cor.5:7](#))

God had sworn by Himself about this...

- He said, "as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.  
<sup>22</sup> Because all those men which have seen My Glory, and My Miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness,

and have tempted Me now these ten times, and have **NOT** hearkened to My Voice;  
<sup>23</sup> surely they shall **NOT** see the land which I swore unto their fathers,  
**NEITHER** shall any of them that provoked Me, see it:

<sup>24</sup> but My **SERVANT** Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath **FOLLOWED** Me **FULLY**, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it." ([Num.14:21-24](#))

### B. The 10 saw obstacles, but Caleb and Joshua saw opportunity

- "Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said,  
Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are **WELL ABLE** to overcome it." ([Num.13:30](#))
- "**IF** the Lord delight in us, **THEN** He will bring us into this land, and give it us;  
a land which floweth with milk and honey.  
<sup>9</sup> Only rebel **NOT** ye **AGAINST** the Lord, **NEITHER** fear ye the people of the land;  
for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them,  
and **The Lord IS WITH us**: fear them **NOT**." ([Num.14:8-9](#))

We too can FAITHFULLY ask for MOUNTAINS...

- Because "...the exceeding greatness of His power (is) to us-ward who believe,  
according to the working of His mighty power," ([Eph.1:19](#))

Caleb's Choice was based on,

### C. Optimistic Faith

...but the 10 were full of negative excuses without any Faith in God.

- The Bible says, “they told him, and said,

We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. <sup>28</sup> Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

...I count about 8 excuses listed here.

<sup>30</sup> And Caleb STILLED the people before Moses, and said, Let us GO up at once, and POSSESS it; for we are WELL ABLE to overcome it.” (Num.13:26-30)

Don't forget the Optimistic Faith of Caleb, in the God of Heaven!

### D. Caleb's Key to Success

- ...was that he “WHOLLY FOLLOWED the Lord (our) God.” (Josh.14:8, 14)

### E. Let Us Be Busy Being Faithful

- Because, “whatsoever is born of God OVERCOMETH the world: and this is the VICTORY that overcometh the world, even our FAITH.” (1Jn.5:4)
- “...IF any man minister, let him DO it as of the ABILITY which God GIVETH: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (1Pet.4:11b)

## II. Caleb's Choice was based on his Experience

### A. Who better than a faithful one with 45 years of experience?

He took it, to root out the Anak-ims. Deut.9:1-2 reads,

- “Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, <sup>2</sup> a people great and tall, the children of the Anak-ims, whom thou knowest, and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!”
- “And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.” (Judges 1:20)

Age does not have to mean, a senile one, or senility.

The Bible says of Moses, when he,

- “was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.” (Deut.34:7)

## B. Experienced One's, should LEAD others to our Eternal Inheritance

- "that the **aged men** be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity (or love), in patience.  
<sup>3</sup> The **aged women** likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;  
<sup>4</sup> that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children," ([Titus 2:2-4](#))

To those that say "I can't"...

It is Not God's plan for the younger one's, to sit back and do nothing:

"Can't; Never have done it" (somebody said)

The Bible says to,

- "**GROW** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory, both now and for ever. Amen." ([2Pet.3:18](#))
- "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always **OBEYED**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **WORK** out your own salvation with fear and trembling." ([Phil.2:12](#))

Older one's have so much to offer the younger one's.

- "Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee." ([Deut.32:7](#))
- "hold... fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine, both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." ([Titus 1:9](#))

## C. The spiritual War is not over yet -- SERVE/WORK/RUN, NOW

- "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience, the race that is set before us," ([Heb.12:1](#))

## III. Caleb's Choice was Based on his Strength

One of the beautiful things in this story, is that,

### A. Caleb Lived to his last breath of life

- young in spirit,
- enthusiastic in work

Caleb refused to get old; Not just physical stamina at 85 but a,

### B. Strong and Capable Mind

- "As yet I am as **STRONG** this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, **FOR** war, both to go out, and to come in.  
<sup>12</sup> Now therefore **give me this mountain**, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anak-ims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: **if so be the Lord will be with me**, then I shall **be able** to drive them out, as the Lord said." ([Josh.14:11-12](#))

### C. Let us be strong to the end (not talking about physical exertion if we're have medical problems)

- "be **strong IN** the Lord, and **IN** the **power of His might**." ([Eph.6:10](#))

Strength will uphold purity to,

- "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." ([Rom.12:9b](#))

Help others in the grip of sin by,

- "...teach(ing) others also." ([2Tim.2:2](#))

Look forward to every day with excitement,

- "For our conversation is in heaven;  
from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:" ([Phil.3:20](#))

## IV. Caleb's Choice was based on his willingness

### A. It Would have been easier to LET SOMEONE ELSE do it.

The Bible says,

- "For in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **Faith which worketh BY Love**." ([Gal.5:6](#))
- "For every man shall bear his own burden." ([Gal.6:5](#))

A Peril to us: is one who takes religion too easily.

We must learn that our spiritual walk, is a personal battle that comes with suffering,  
And comes with service, that includes forgetting or denying self.

### B. Through our willingness, God can conquer MOUNTAINS

Are we WILLING to know truth personally?

- "**IF any man will DO His Will, he shall KNOW of the doctrine**, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." ([Jn.7:17](#))

WILLING to help those who grope?

- "One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. <sup>42</sup> And he brought him to Jesus." ([Jn.1:40-42a](#))

Devotion is not JUST a duty

- "We love Him, because He **FIRST Loved** us." ([1Jn.4:19](#))
- "Whom having not seen, ye love; IN Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" ([1Pet.1:8](#))

## V. IN-CONCLUSION

One poet said,

I can't accept this MOUNTAIN, Lord,  
Give me a tiny **HILL**;  
While others climb the mountain's height  
Let me this small spot **FILL**.

My vision is so limited,  
I can't with eagles **FLY**;  
But this tiny hill -- I think I can!  
Well, at least I'd make a **TRY**.

The Lord looked down with grieving heart,  
For this MOUNTAIN was His **GIFT**;  
The hills were only meant for those  
Who fear the rocks and **CLIFF**.

For those whose faith could only span  
That which they could see and **KNOW**;  
While MOUNTAINS hold the blessings  
That none but the brave can **KNOW**.

(-- Author Unknown)

Don't seek the soft, easy place.

Be like Caleb: Look for full opportunity, to put every power on the altar for God.

Every one should say, like Caleb: "**GIVE ME THIS MOUNTAIN!**" - cf Isa 6:8.

Be straightforward, and true, beginning **NOW**,

- By **Hearing** ([Rom.10:14](#); [Rom.10:17](#)),
- **Believing** ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#)),
- **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#); [Acts 17:30](#); [2Pet.3:9](#); [1Jn.1:9](#); [Jn.8:11](#)),
- **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#); [Matt.10:32-33](#); [Rom.10:9-10](#)),
- Be **Baptized** ([Gal.3:26-27](#); [Rom.6:3-5](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
- And Remain **Faithful** ([Rev.2:10](#); [Matt.24:13](#)).

Be Useful, and grow brighter unto that blissful day, when we can hear,

- "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: ...enter thou into the joy of thy lord." ([Matt.25:21](#))

If you have a spiritual Need,

Come now, as Together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw  
His Sources: Keith Schoonover; Clifford Sheffield;  
R. L. Andrews; Tony Mauck; George Truett;  
An Unknown Author  
Edited & Formatted: by Michael Wright