

## Patience Payoff or Waiting for your Opportunity



Scripture: [Joshua 14: 6-14](#)

*Verse 12: Now therefore **give me this mountain**, whereof the Lord spake in that day; ....*

*Verse 14: Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb **...because that he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.***

### Introduction:

Caleb is a prime example of God's timing is not always our timing; but He is always on time.

Caleb had a strong will, strong faith, and the patience to wait on the Lord's timing to see a thing done. In Joshua 14 we find him 85 years old and asking for land that he spied out 45 years earlier. Land that is inhabited by Anakims (giants) that live in walled cities in the mountains of Hebron.

He should be asking for a hammock to retire to, but instead he is asking for the land that will be the hardest to take.

Why would Caleb ask for the mountains of Hebron?

### The Promise of God:

Caleb took God's Word literally. He had a strong belief in the promises of God. We should learn from Caleb and take God's promises and His warnings literally.

Caleb's story begins back 45 years earlier when the children of Israel had a decisive moment in their history.

*Numbers 13:1-2 "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man..."*

Two of those leaders were Caleb and Joshua. Twelve total leaders, one from each tribe went into Canaan to spy out the land. Note that God said: *which I give unto the children of Israel.*

God sent them so they could see the land, come back and plan how to take the land, and then be ready to go into the land. However, the majority of the leaders, that is, ten of them, did not have a vision for what God was giving to them.

Only two saw God's promise as a promise. Only two took Him literally.

These two men did not fret about the hard work ahead; instead they focused on the promise of God that said: *which I give unto the children of Israel.*

Today many people say that the Bible stories are great stories, but they don't really apply to us now. Many no longer believe that miracles can be performed by God in this generation. But the only thing that holds back God's miraculous hand is people that do not take His Word literally and do not expect God to keep His promises.

### The Patience:

## **Patience of Caleb:**

Caleb went to his old friend, Joshua, and reminded him of God's promise made by the mouth of Moses 45 years earlier. Caleb had waited patiently for 45 years on a promise that God made to him!

When you get anxious and want God to answer your prayer "right now", stop and consider God's timing, not yours.

The land of Hebron was considered prime land. Caleb had more justification to be anxious for God to keep His promise than most of you, but he waited on God's timing. The land was fertile, it was beautiful, and it would be easy to defend in the future because of the mountainous terrain.

He knew all along that this terrain and the giants would make it hard to take but, if he waited on God's perfect time, it would be his.

Do you have the patience of Caleb to wait up to 45 years, with a good attitude, to receive the promises of God in your life?

We live in an "instant" society with instant internet access; instant communication; instant potatoes; instant any and everything. But if you want God's best for you, then you will need to go by His plan and it is not always "instant".

***"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14.***

Many times in your life it will appear that God is not answering you; or that the "enemy" has won. But remember He is in control. Let Him have His way; it will be a much better result than rushing into an "easy" answer.

You will be pressured to make a "decision" on a matter; you will be pressured to conform to the crowd (both the good and the bad crowd); but if you will seek the Lord's leading in your life He will not lead you astray. His way is best.

## **The Payoff:**

Caleb was promised his inheritance because he was in the family of God's chosen people.

If you want to partake in the promises of God, you must be born into His Family.

*(Present salvation here.)*