

SERMON NOTES

Preacher: Todd Chapman

Date: September 15, 2024

Text: Joshua 14:6ff

Title: Fighting Faith – wholly following God

Big Idea: God has called us to follow Him completely

Challenge: Follow the Lord our God completely (“wholly followed”) (V8,9,14)

What stops us from following God whole-heartedly?

- Our past, fear, failure, future, the unknown, other...?

Encouragements:

- Here is a picture of what can happen when we follow whole-heartedly; when we let God have all of us (mind, heart and soul).

A. Faith overcomes Fear (V8-12)

- Israel had great giants and a little God; Caleb had a great God and little giants.
- Faith is where God dwells and lives.
- Faith is where God’s power resides.
- Faith is where we experience our great God do the impossible!
- Caleb’s God is our God.

B. Faith produces Patience (V9-12)

- Caleb endures with all Israel the long desert wanderings, sharing in the disappointments and burdens of the guilty yet we do not hear him here complain. He only exalts God’s mercy that God had preserved him in the wilderness.
- How was Caleb able to wait?
 - o He dwelt and lived on God’s promises (V9, 10,12)
 - What are God’s promises to us? (Philip. 1:6; Ps 23; Acts 1:7-8; Joshua 1:9; Mt. 28:18-20) Another chance, another day, healing, heaven,...
 - o He left the results up to God (V12)

C. Faith produces Mercy (V6-10)

- Caleb could have been bitter.
 - o 45 years...
 - o 45 years in the wilderness...
 - o 45 years in the wilderness with those who got him there.
- How many of us have are bitter? Have become bitter? For how many of us has this bitterness kept us from following God “fully”?

- Caleb responds in mercy and leads the people and follows God.
- Caleb doesn't complain, instead he replaces it with going after the faith tasks at hand. He has already wasted too much time!
 - o How can Caleb do this? Same as his keys to patience – lived on God's promises, left results up to God, know the Lord was with him, knew the Lord loved him.

D. Faith Inspires Investment (15:14-19; Judges 3:7-11)

- What is one of the greatest investments we can do into the lives of others? Those who come after us? Our families, neighbours, friends, church, co-workers, our enemies,...
 - o Live by Faith!! Show them Jesus. Live the Gospel.
 - o Why? Because whole-heartedness reveals Jesus Christ.
 - Be a Caleb!
 - o How many of us have children who don't want Jesus? How can Jesus break into their lives? Show them Jesus through fully following
- (Joshua 15:13-19) Acsah, Caleb's daughter asks for more just like her dad! Coincidence? No.
- (Joshua 15:16-17) Caleb made 'faith' a prerequisite for any man to marry his daughter – Othniel stepped up.
 - o Judges 3:7-11) Othniel, Caleb's son-in-law, becomes a judge and steps up and rescues Israel (while others did not) from King Cushan-rishathaim of Aram because he lived fully following God. Coincidence? No!

E. Faith Seizes Opportunities (V12)

- Caleb was not going to miss out on God's blessings ever again! ***"Give me the hill...I will drive them out just as he said."*** (V12)
- **Faith removes regret.** Regret can come from not seizing opportunities.

F. Faith's Results

- a. **Strength (V10-11)**
- b. **Provides for family (Joshua 15:13-19)**
 - Caleb provided for the next generation.
- c. **Complete victory (V14)**
 - ***"Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb...to this day because he wholly followed the Lord, the God of Israel..."***
 - It no longer belonged to Kiriath Arba the greatest man amongst the Anakim.
- d. **Rest (V15b)**
 - ***"and the land had rest from war"***

Application Questions

1. What does it mean to “wholly follow” God?
2. What stops me from “wholly” following God?
3. How great is our Lord? (see Isaiah 40; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Chronicles 29:10-14,...)
How does our faith overcome our fears? Share a story of a time this happened.
4. What mercy has God given you? (see Colossians 1:21-23; 1John 4:7-12)
5. Whose faith in Christ inspires you? Thank our God for them and thank those faithful individuals.
6. What is God bringing before you in which you need to follow in humble obedience?
What do you need to hand over to Him?