

Numbers 14 - Caleb Has a Different Spirit

What did Caleb have that the others lacked?

Num 13:30-33 NIV 30 Then **Caleb** silenced the people before Moses and said, "**We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.**" 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "**We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.**" 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.

It seems the 10 were moved by fear, unbelief and a hardened hearts

Num 14:1-4 NIV That night **all the members** of the community **raised** their voices and **wept** aloud. 2 **All the Israelites grumbled** against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "**If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!** 3 **Why is the LORD** bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? **Our wives and children will be taken as plunder.** Wouldn't it be better for us to **go back to Egypt?**" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

And vs 9 Only **do not rebel against the LORD.** And do not be **afraid** of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but **the LORD is with us.** Do not be **afraid** of them

Along with FEAR - the book of Hebrews describes other conditions of their heart as reasons to why they did not go into the promised land

- Heb 4:6 unbelief (obstinate - unbelief -- unpersuadable)
- Heb 4:7 a hardened heart (stubborn)

How the LORD viewed this

- Vs 11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people **treat me with contempt?**
- Vs 11 How long will they **refuse to believe** in me
- Vs 35 this whole **wicked community, which has banded together against me.**

How the LORD dealt with this

VS 28 I will do to you the thing I heard you say

- **They wanted to get a leader and go back to Egypt**
 - Vs 25 turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea
- **They said - If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!**
 - Vs 29 In this wilderness your bodies will fall--every one of you twenty years old or more
- **They said, "Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?"**
 - Vs 30 Not one of you will enter the land...except Caleb and Joshua
- **They said, "Our wives and children will be taken as plunder"**
 - Vs 31 "As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected"

Caleb has a different spirit

24 But because my servant **Caleb has a different spirit and *follows me wholeheartedly***, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

- Num 32:9-12 NIV After they went up to the Valley of Eshkol and viewed the land, they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land the LORD had given them. 10 The LORD's anger was aroused that day and he swore this oath: 11 **'Because they have not followed me wholeheartedly**, not one of those who were twenty years old or more when they came up out of Egypt will see the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-- 12 not one except Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua son of Nun, **for they followed the LORD wholeheartedly.'**

1) Their faith was based on the nature and character of God

5 Then **Moses** and **Aaron** fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 **Joshua** son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 **and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 *If the LORD is pleased with us*, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only **do not rebel against the LORD**. And do not be **afraid** of the people of the land, because we will devour them. **Their protection is gone**, but *the LORD is with us*. Do not be **afraid** of them."** 10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

Their faith was based on the FAVOR of the LORD - "If the LORD is pleased with us"

- 2Co 5:9-10 NIV So ***we make it our goal to please him***, ...10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ ...
- There was an appeal to NOT rebel against the LORD

Their faith was based on the PRESENCE of the LORD - "the LORD is with us"

- Exo 33:14-15 NIV The LORD replied, "***My Presence will go with you***, and I will give you rest." 15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.
- There was an appeal to NOT be afraid

2) Moses was passionate about the glory of God - NOT HIS OWN

12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but **I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."**

13 Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them

16 'The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath, so he slaughtered them in the wilderness.'

17 "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 18 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.'

19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people

Num 14:20 NIV The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked.

38 Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived. 39 When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly.

- The 10 spies died in a plague...
- Everyone else 20 years old and upward would die in the wilderness...

Wholeheartedly following Him is always the Key

40 Early the next morning they set out for the highest point in the hill country, saying, "**Now we are ready to go up to the land the LORD promised. Surely we have sinned!**" 41 But Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the LORD's command? **This will not succeed!** 42 **Do not go up, because the LORD is not with you.** You will be defeated by your enemies, 43 for the Amalekites and the Canaanites will face you there. **Because you have turned away from the LORD, he will not be with you** and you will fall by the sword." 44 Nevertheless, **in their presumption they went up** toward the highest point in the hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the LORD's covenant moved from the camp. 45 Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them **and beat them down** all the way to Hormah.

Caleb - 45 years later

Jos 14:7-14 NIV **I was forty years old** when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, 8 but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. **I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.** 9 So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, **because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.**' 10 "Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. **So here I am today, eighty-five years old!** 11 **I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then.** 12 **Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.**" 13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14 So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, **because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.**