

The Consistent Courage of Caleb

Joshua 14:6-15

Caleb was an amazingly consistent and courageous man of God. We see his consistency from all the seasons of his life, but perhaps most from his middle years.



As a younger man, Caleb was a leader of the tribe of Judah (*Numbers 13:2,3*). When he returned from spying out the land, he “stilled the people” (*Numbers 13:30*). Caleb fearlessly opposed not 600 nor 6,000, but more than 600,000 furious people. He confidently proclaimed, “the LORD is with us; fear them [the enemies] not.”

The response was that “all the congregation bid stone them with stones” (*Numbers 14:9,10*). Caleb was part of a tiny, despised minority who boldly followed the LORD. Likewise, in his older years he was undaunted and, at age 80, he confidently claimed his promised inheritance by boldly driving out the inhabitants of Hebron (*Joshua 14:12-14*). The beginning and ending of Caleb’s life give outstanding examples of his character and courage.

However, Caleb’s middle years, though unreported, may be the most impressive and the best example of all to us. The wandering years of the children of Israel as a nation were filled with discontent, death, discouragement, and repeated failures. Nevertheless, we can assume that Caleb kept his heart firmly fixed upon His God. Think of Caleb for over 332,000 hours, over 13,000 days, over 450 months, and for 38 years not wavering in his devotion to the LORD. Day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year he apparently stayed spiritually, mentally, and physically sharp. We can only conclude that his life was disciplined and well-lived, and that regardless of those about him, he was faithful and unswerving, trusting in God’s promises.



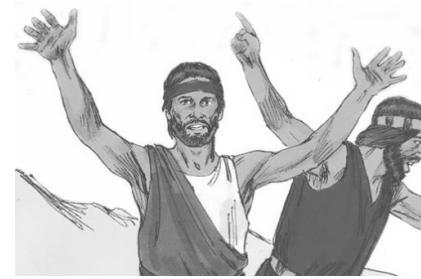
May we, as Caleb, wholly follow the LORD (*Joshua 14:9*), knowing that God’s exceeding great and precious promises to us are **yes** and **amen** and will surely be fulfilled.

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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