



# **WHOLLY FOLLOW THE LORD!**

**Joshua 14**

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**Remotely from Lancaster home to Men's Ministry**

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# WHOLLY FOLLOW THE LORD!

## Joshua 14:1-15

### Introduction

- Turn in your Bibles to **Joshua 14**.
- In this account we will see one of my favorite Bible characters – Caleb
- And as we look at the life of Caleb we will see some of the characteristics that will help us to live a life that glorifies God, blesses others, and grows faith
- **Joshua 14:6**
- Caleb is first mentioned in Numbers 13 in the listing of the twelve men that were sent into the land of Canaan.
- They were sent in to spy out the land and determine the best approach into the land.
- They were to bring back a report that would be used to create a strategy for conquering the Promised Land.
- Ten of the spies said, no way – there are giants in the land
- Caleb (and Joshua) is ready to go and begin the conquest of the land of Canaan – they have giants – we have God – no contest
- They are confident that God is going to keep His promise and give them the land.
- **Numbers 14:10a**
- The people wanted to stone Caleb and Joshua
- The peoples' minds were so twisted by fear and their lack of faith in God that they were ready to kill these two guys that wanted to do what God said.
- Last Sunday I taught that faith is about knowing what God had said – knowing what he has said to us personally, and then fearlessly doing what we believe God wants us to do

- Caleb knew that God had promised to give them the Land, He believed that God was going to keep His promise and He was ready to go
- In Deuteronomy 1 God promised Caleb that he would live through the 38-year wilderness hike and that he would receive as his inheritance the land that he walked on while he was one of the twelve spies.
- Caleb is coming to Joshua and reminding him of the promises of God.
- **Joshua 14:7**
- Caleb spoke what was in his heart. Even if it meant that he was saying things that almost everyone else disagreed with.
- **Joshua 14:8**
- There's that term again: 'wholly followed the Lord'.
- **Joshua 14:9**
- Again, there is that phrase: 'wholly followed the Lord'.
- There is a key there that we need to understand.
- **Joshua 14:10-11**
- Caleb is 85 and he says that he hasn't lost a step.
- He says that he is just as strong as the day that Moses sent him in to spy the land.
- How many people at 85 could say something like that?
- **Joshua 14:12**
- Caleb is tough! He comes to Joshua at the age of 85 and asks Joshua to give him the land that God had promised him.
- And. Oh yeah, he says, there are giants and fortified cities there, remember?
- And Caleb doesn't ask Joshua to send the army with him to take out these enemies.
- Caleb says: 'It may be that the Lord is with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said.'
- Caleb didn't need anyone but God.
- **Joshua 14:13-15**

- There is that term again: ‘wholly followed the Lord’; three times in chapter 14 of Joshua.
- It is used only two other times in the Old Testament.
- And all five times it is used in reference to Caleb.
- Caleb was a man that was living a radical life
- It is the life that God is calling all men to live
- Here in our text in chapter 14 we see five character traits of a man who wholly followed the Lord
- If we can imitate some of these traits, then we also can live that kind of life too.
- God blessed Caleb tremendously because Caleb wholly followed the Lord.
- He will bless us as well if we will do the same thing.
- **Joshua 14:7**
- The first trait of someone wholly following the Lord is:  
**Complete Integrity**
- Another word for integrity is honesty.
- If we are going to walk in the life that Jesus came to give us, we must be men and women of integrity.
- We must be honest before God and men.
- Caleb could easily have seen how things were going and chosen to go along with the crowd or say nothing at all.
- Paul exhorted **Titus 2:6-8**
- **Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**
- If we are going to live the life of abundance and victory, we must be men and women that tell the truth no matter what it costs us.
- Most of us will not facing stoning for telling the truth.
- We find our second trait in verse eight of our text.
- **Joshua 14:8**

- God had told the nation of Israel to go in and possess the land of Canaan.
- The ten spies said no and convinced the rest of the people to say no.
- Caleb said: “Let’s go, we can take them!” Caleb described the people of the land of Canaan as bread for them to eat.
- Our second trait is: **Fearless Obedience**
- Caleb was ready and willing to be obedient.
- To God, obedience is more important than anything else that we could do. Samuel said to King Saul: **1 Samuel 15:22b**  
**...to obey is better than sacrifice.**
- It doesn’t matter what you do for God if it is not what God wants. If God wants it counts for nothing.
- It doesn’t matter how much you sacrifice for God if it is not what God asked for it is wasted.
- The first two traits are Complete integrity and fearless obedience.
- Our third trait is found in verse nine of our text.
- **Joshua 14:9**
- Caleb went into the land of Canaan with a plan.
- He was going in to determine the best approach for the army to take as they begin to conquer the Canaanites.
- He did not question what they were to do.
- God had said “Go in and possess the land” and Caleb was ready to do just that.
- God had said that He was going to drive the enemy out from before them and Caleb believed Him.
- Our third trait of someone that is wholly following God is:  
**Unwavering Faith**
- Caleb had faith; not in himself or in the army of God but he had faith in God. He said in: **Numbers 14:8a**  
**If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us.**
- Caleb believed God and believed in God.

- Caleb believed that God was going to do what He said that He was going to do and all that they had to do was be a delight to God.
- God delights in hearts that are filled with integrity and are obedient to Him.
- Now our fourth trait in verse 10.
- **Joshua 14:10-11**
- Forty-five years earlier God had made a promise to Caleb that he would be allowed to enter into the Promised Land.
- What did he do for thirty-eight years after that promise was made?
- He wandered around in the wilderness while God dealt with the rebellious generation.
- What did Caleb do to deserve the penalty of wandering around in the wilderness for thirty-eight years? Nothing!
- He was innocent and yet he had to pay for the sins of the rest of the nation by having to wait to enter into the Promised Land.
- Our fourth trait of someone wholly following the Lord is:  
**Steadfast Perseverance**
- To persevere is to keep going no matter what the obstacles or difficulties.
- We don't like this one because it usually means some amount of suffering or pain.
- When we are persevering, we maintain our strength because we are trusting God to be faithful to His promises.
- Even the ability to persevere comes from God.
- Galatians 5:22 tells us that one of the fruits of the Spirit is long-suffering which is another word for perseverance.
- And in Psalms we are told: **Psalms 31:23-24**  
**Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord.**
- Even the ability to persevere comes from God.

- We find our last trait in verse 12 of our text.
- **Joshua 14:12**
- We have already said that Caleb was a man who was not afraid.
- Our fifth and last trait of a person that is wholly following the Lord is: **Courageous Obedience**
- Courage is not the absence of fear.
- Courage is action in spite of fear.
- Caleb was a man of courage. He knew what to do and did it!
- His courage was a direct result of the other four traits.
- God has called us all to courageous obedience

- **2 Timothy 1:7**

**For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.**

- Caleb knew that there was nowhere that God was going to lead him that God couldn't keep him. **Romans 8:31b**

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

- Caleb was a man that lived the abundant, victorious life because he wholly followed the Lord
- If you want to live a life that is full of all that God has promised us then you must decide today to wholly follow the Lord, Jesus.
- Only by wholly following Jesus do you stand a chance of reaching the Promised Life.
- You can't do it part way.
- You can't have 2 out of the 5 traits and expect to have the Promised Life.
- If you want it all, you have to do it all.
- Today would be a good day for all of us to decide to live a life wholly following the Lord
- **Pray**