

# *Growing Old, like Caleb!*

**Joshua 14:6-15; 15:14-19**

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction: *"What do you want to be when you grow up?"*

- Career oriented responses
- Accomplishments or Success
- Character or issues of the heart

## *Growing Old, like Caleb!*

- Joshua 14:6-15-- *"Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, "Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war."*

### **A. His Unshakeable Faith**

- Numbers 14:7-9-- *"The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."*
1. His unshakeable faith in the power, promises, and presence of God which enabled him to stand against the majority.
  2. His unshakeable faith was a result of conviction, not heredity. cp. Genesis 15:19
    - Joshua 14:6-- *"Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea."*
  3. Because of His unshakeable faith, God promised Caleb an inheritance in the promised land.
    - Numbers 14:24-- *"But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit within him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it."*
- a. The promise is renewed 38 years later
    - Deuteronomy 1:34-36-- *"And the LORD heard the sound of your words, and was angry, and took an oath, saying, 'Surely, not one of these men of this evil generation shall see that good land of which I swore to give to your fathers, except Caleb, the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him and his children I am giving the land on which he walked, because he wholly followed the LORD."*

- b. The promised is realized 45 years later
  - Joshua 14:9-- *"Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God."*
  - 2 Timothy 4:7-- *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

## B. His Uncommon Graciousness

Joshua 14:8-10-- *"Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God. So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' 10 And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old."*

1. Caleb had good reason to be bitter with life or with God.
2. Caleb grew old graciously rather than grumpy by...
  - a. Following the LORD, his God, fully.
  - b. Seeing each day as a gift from God
    - Joshua 14:10-- *"And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old."*

## C. His Indomitable Spirit

- Joshua 14:11-12-- *"As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." "Give me this mountain!!!"*
1. Caleb conserved physical strength for spiritual endeavors.
  2. The curse of aging is diminished physical energy.
  3. Caleb refused to quit, give up, or retire. Saw his greatest challenges still in the future.

## D. His Positive Spiritual Impact

- Joshua 15:14-19-- *"Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak. Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir was Kirjath Sepher). And Caleb said, 'He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife.' So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife. Now it was so, when she came to him, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, 'What do you wish?' 19 answered, 'Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water.' So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs."*
1. Caleb's unshakeable faith and indomitable spirit rubs off on his future son-in-law, Othniel, the first judge of Israel.
    - Judges 3:9-11-- *"When the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the LORD delivered Cushan-Rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hands; and his hand prevailed over Cushan-Rishathaim. So the land had rest for forty years."*
  2. Caleb's unshakeable faith and indomitable spirit is seen in his daughter's request for a field and spring of water.