

Conquering with Caleb: A Tale of Victory

#givemethismountain #faithisthevictory

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[0:00] Talking about victory, how we can have a victorious Christian life really, and really the spirit of Caleb.! Read about the spies that were sent out to spy out the promised land.

And the children of Israel had been in captivity in Egypt for about 430 years. God then called a man, Moses, as his instrument to help lead the people of God out of Egypt and to take them to the promised land.

And it had been about 650 years before that God had promised to Abraham, I will build a nation through you. I will put you in this wonderful land, this promised land.

You're going to have a great nation. So we're going to pick up the story here in Numbers chapter 13. And Moses and the people are here, and they're standing on the edge of the promised land. They had come to this point of their travels, and the promised land was before them. And Numbers 13 from verse 17, it reads, And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain, and see the land, what it is, and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many, and what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad, and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents or in strongholds, and what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein or not, and be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land.

[2:12] So here they were, these ones, these people, and each tribe had selected a leader to represent them.

Now each of those tribes, they had tens of thousands of people, and each one of those 12 tribes, they selected one leader from each tribe. They chose well-respected men that they could trust, and these men had a lot of influence on the others.

And Moses gets these 12 men to go out and to check out that land, the promised land, and then to bring a report, to come back and give a report. So it reads on, verse 20, it reads further, Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.

So they went up and searched the land from the wilderness of Zim unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath, and they ascended by the south and came unto Hebron, where Ahaman, Shashai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were.

Now Hebron was built seven years before Zohan in Egypt. So here they were, these 12 tribes, selected 12 men, and these 12 spies went and they looked throughout the land.

[3:30] They went out and they scouted out the land some 350 to 500 miles. There was a lot of travelling here, all throughout this whole area. And then they came back after 40 days to bring back their report.

What's more, they brought fruit from the land. So verse 23, it reads on, So you picture it here, they cut a cluster of grapes, and they carried it, two men, on this pole between them.

It was such a big cluster that two men had to carry this cluster of grapes. They brought of the pomegranates and of the figs. Verse 24, The place was called the Brook of Eshcol because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

And they returned from searching of the land after 40 days. And they went and came to Moses and to Aaron and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh, and brought back word unto them, unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

And they told him and said, We came unto the land with it thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey. And this is the fruit of it.

[4:55] The spies said this land is flowing with milk and honey. That was a picture of how wonderfully fertile it was. And it was the land just like God had promised them.

It would be. So prosperous and wonderful, flowing with milk and honey. Who likes milk and honey? It was a lovely place. Everything was there that you could wish for as to the abundance of the land. But, verse 28, it reads on, Nevertheless, the people be strong that dwell in the land. And the cities are walled and very great.

And moreover, we saw the children of Anak there. These were giants. A giant people. Verse 29, The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south, and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites dwell in the mountains, and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and by the coast of Jordan. There was the fruit, the lovely fruit, a land flowing with milk and honey, but the people be strong. They've got all these fortified walls.

[6:07] The children of Anak, these giants are there. It's all sounding a bit ominous, a bit scary. But then Caleb speaks up, and he raises up his voice of faith with the testimony of his faith.

Verse 30, And Caleb stilled the people. He said, Whoa, wait a minute. He stilled the people before Moses, and he said, Let us go up at once and possess it, for we are well able to overcome it. Here's Caleb. The fruit is there, but the giants are there, but Caleb says, God's there. We're well able. We're going to do this. God's able. He was confident, fully confident, in God's ability that they would overcome.

We are able. We are able, he says. We are well able to overcome. His was the voice of victory, of faith. But verse 31, it reads on, But the man that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.

You've got Joshua and Caleb, the two, and then you've got the ten, that say, We be not able. We be not able. They are stronger than we.

[7:27] Ten of the spies lifted up the voice of discouragement. Ten of the spies. Now these ten, they had seen the work of God two years before, how God had brought them through, parting the Red Sea through signs and wonders.

Yet here is the voice of unbelief. We be not able. They are stronger than we. The voice of unbelief. We're not good enough.

We're not strong enough. We're not smart enough. How many times have people told you that? Me that? I can think of times in my life, people have told me, You're not able. Don't even try. Can you identify with that?

Happens to all of us, doesn't it? Think of some job situations. They said, You're not able. They said to me, You're not able to go to this, the next level up.

[8:33] You just not got what it takes. You're too lacking in confidence. Your communication skills aren't good enough. You just don't have what it takes. You're not able.

So I kept applying and then I got that job. Then I got the job above that job. The job above that job. The job above that job. They said I wasn't able. And that can be your testimony too.

They can tell you that you're not able. But by God's strength and power, by your perseverance and determination, you can overcome the voice of discouragement.

How many times have people told you you're not smart enough? You're not bright enough. You're not able. By God we are able. Amen. By God we are able.

Verse 32, it reads on, And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we have gone to search it is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof.

[9:35] It's this land that eats people up, it says. And all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants.

And we were in our own sight as grasshoppers. And so we were in their sight. It says these men are giants and we're just grasshoppers. They're going to stomp on us.

This land's going to eat us up. So these ten doubters, they brought this evil report. It's too difficult. It's too scary. Give up.

Notice what happens next. Numbers 14, verse 1. And all the congregation lifted up their voice and cried and the people wept that night. All the people, it says, the whole lot, they brought into the ten spies report, the negative report, the report of doubt, of unbelief.

Friends, negativity spreads, doesn't it? All the people, the ten people who brought the negative, unbelieving report, influenced the whole nation.

[10:47] And all the people of God, the people of Israel, they grumbled against Moses and Aaron. Verse 2. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron and the whole congregation said unto them, would God that we had died in the land of Egypt.

Or would God we had died in this wilderness. They thought we'd have been better off to just stay where we were. If we'd have just stayed in Egypt, we wouldn't be having all of this trouble. If we'd just stayed in Egypt and died in Egypt.

Here's what unbelief does. It causes fear and inaction, doesn't it? Doubt and unbelief. It's just destructive, isn't it? That they would think that they're better off have stayed in Egypt and died in Egypt.

But before them is this land of milk, of flowing with milk and honey. But unbelief held them back. Verse 3.

And wherefore hath the Lord brought us into this land to fall by the sword that our wives and our children should be praying, were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

[11:55] Go back! Give up! Let's pack our bags and go back to Egypt. Go back to Pharaoh. Go back to the bondage of labour, of building his works, of slavery.

Go back to Egypt. Ten men turned the hearts of two million. There were some two million. Ten men turned the hearts of two million to disbelieve.

Negativity spreads, doesn't it? Doubt and fear. Verse 4. And they said once one another, let us make a captain and let us return into Egypt. So pack it in.

Give it up. It's too hard. What happens next? Moses and Aaron and Jacob and Caleb react. They go to God in prayer. They speak up again in faith.

Verse 5. This is Numbers 14. Verse 5. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel and Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh which were of them that searched the land rent their clothes.

[12:59] They tore their clothes in this display of distress, of burden.

Verse 7. And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel saying, The land which we passed through to search it is an exceeding good land.

Caleb had the courage to stand up for the Lord, to stand in faith, to stand up for what was right even though the majority was against him. And he urged them, This land is incredible.

It's flowing with milk and honey. This is an exceeding good land. This is going to be wonderful.

Verse 8. If the Lord delight in us, then he will bring us into this land and give it us, a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their defence has departed from them, and the Lord is with us.

Fear them not. Here's Caleb and Joshua. They remembered it was God's promise to give them this land. This was the promised land. God's given it to them.

[14:07] He says that God is for us. God is with us. Fear them not. He will give us this land, our God. They remembered God's power. Faith is the opposite of fear.

We can be held back by unbelief, by doubt, by our own self-doubt. Caleb says, Don't be a rebel. Believe. He says, Don't rebel against the Lord.

Don't fear the people. Believe God. Look at how God has helped us through these last years, these two years. How he split the Red Sea. He's brought us into this, the edge of this land of promise.

It's just, we've just got to step over. Caleb and Joshua, they were willing to stand alone for what they believed was right. Verse 10, But all the congregation bade stone them with stones, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

It gets really desperate now. Caleb and Joshua, they say, Let's go. We're well able. God is with us. He's going to give us this land. And the congregation, they get some stones.

[15:17] They're picking up. they're planning to pick up the stones and to stone these men to death. The ten doubting spies, they magnified the problems and they minimised their faith.

And there was such anger and rage now that people wanted to stone Moses, Aaron, Caleb, Joshua. What an affront to God. We must believe and not give way to fear.

Verse 11, And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will these people provoke me? How long will it be ere they believe me? For all the signs which I have showed among them, I will smite them with pestilence and disinherit them and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

And then we see Moses pleading with God in the next few verses. He intercedes for the people.

Verse 13, Moses said unto the Lord, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land for they have heard that thou, Lord, art among this people, that thou, Lord, art seen face to face and that thy cloud standeth over them and that thou goest before them by daytime in a pillar of cloud and in a pillar of fire by night.

Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak saying, Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

[16:45] Moses is recounting to the Lord how he has brought great deliverance and so he urges the Lord to mercy.

Verse 17, And now I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, The Lord is long-suffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people, according unto the greatness of thy mercy, as thou hast forgiven this people from Egypt until now. He's urging the Lord, please forgive.

Verse 20, And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word, but as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord. Because to all those men which have seen my glory and my miracles which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness and have tempted me now these ten times and have not hearkened to my voice, surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoke me see it.

So here's the consequence. We reap what we sow. Judgment fell on these unbelieving ones. And God was sending them back now into the wilderness for the entire generation to die except for Joshua and Caleb.

[18:15] There was a consequence to their unbelief that they would have to go back and now wait for a whole generation to die. Notice that Caleb was different.

Verse 24, and this is really an especially critical verse here. Verse 24, But my servant Caleb because he had another spirit with him and hath followed me fully him will I bring into the land where into he went and his seed shall possess it.

So here's how Caleb was different. He believed God. He followed fully. He followed God fully. Caleb had faith and courage. He had another spirit with him.

Can that be said of you tonight? You've got another spirit with you. You're not going to listen to the ten who would say pack it in. You're going to listen to the two that say there's a land there.

There's a land that God has promised. There's a land that's flown with milk and honey and you are well able. You are well able to overcome it. There's giants yeah but God is with you. He will overcome them.

[19:33] Caleb had another spirit. Verse 25 Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley. Tomorrow turn you and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red Sea.

I know there's long verses here to read through but just so you've got the whole picture. Verse 26 and the Lord spake unto Moses and unto Aaron saying how long shall I bear with this evil congregation which murmur against me.

I've heard the murmurings of the children of Israel which they murmur against me. Say unto them as truly as I live saith the Lord as you've spoken in mine ears so will I do to you.

Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness and all that were numbered of you according to your whole number from twenty years old and upward which I've murmured against me doubtless you shall not come into the land concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein save Caleb and Joshua.

Caleb the son of Jephunneh Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones which you said should be a prey then will I bring in and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

[20:41] But as for you your carcasses they shall fall in this wilderness and your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years and bear your whoredoms until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness after the number of the days in which you search the land even forty days each day for a year shall you bear your iniquities even forty years and you shall know my breach of promise I the Lord have said I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation that are gathered together against me in this wilderness they shall be consumed and there they shall die.

These are sobering words here these ones that had fallen into this disbelief that they would miss out on the promise the promised land for forty years the wilderness would be their place of wandering and they would all miss out except the ones who believed Caleb and Joshua unbelief brought judgment on the rest of them doubt and unbelief murmuring there was judgment there an immediate judgment on the ten spies as we read next verse 36 and the men which Moses sent to search the land he returned and made all the congregation to murmur against him by bringing up a slander upon the land even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land died by the plague before the Lord but Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh which were of the men that went to search the land lived still now the point of all that is the ten spies they were immediately under the judgment of

God the ones who followed the ten the murmurers they missed out but the two who believed Caleb and Joshua they would enter the land and be blessed it's a thought how we could consider do we believe God or not do we believe God's word God promised the land to the people but doubt overcame through the negative report people thought the obstacles were too hard to overcome but Caleb believed God Joshua believed God how about us can we have a Caleb spirit if you like as we had read but my servant Caleb because he had another spirit with him and hath followed me fully him will I bring into the land whereunto he went and his seed shall possess it the twelve of them all saw the same stuff think of that the twelve who went as spies these twelve men all twelve of them they all saw the same things they saw the same stuff but Caleb and Joshua had different vision they had a different eyesight the ten saw through eyes of doubt and fear they would bring an evil report many would bring an evil report and heed an evil report and become a naysayer a murmurer that's the same kind of spirit that manifested in the people of

God in the wilderness wasn't it and it's like the ten who didn't believe that was the majority report if they had put it to a vote they said let's give it up and go back to Egypt if the people of God was a democracy that had voted all in favour it's ten versus two we've got to go back to Egypt that's what the majority want it's two million versus two basically isn't it I guess four Moses Aaron Joshua and Caleb but the two million all the people were swayed by this kind of this murmuring this naysaying this evil report and the word of God time and time again it tells us to be careful of murmuring it rebukes murmuring for example Philippians 2:14 do all things without murmurings and disputings it's common human nature to find fault

I've received an exchange from someone who's heard false accusations they were talking as if this meeting that we're running is going to be preaching that is watered down and made soft and in the direction of tickling of the ears it's not I set that person straight I told them that is an evil report that is an evil report we are steadfast we are uncompromising we are unbending and but there's evil reports out there evil reports what happened in Moses day the people believed the evil report and they missed the blessing God rebukes such murmuring and doubting this kind of attacking it will bring God's judgment on people's heads it's sad to see I heard a sermon one time it's called Christian cannibals and it's based on Galatians 5:15 Christian cannibals in other words harmful behaviour amongst the people of God Galatians 5:15 it says but if you bite and devour one another take heed that you be not consumed one of another some people like to eat people up it's this kind

of destructive behaviour that can happen amongst any group where there's a speaking evil there's a gossiping a divisiveness friends the tongue can do much harm and evil and sometimes we can buy into what the tens say when actually it's false corrupt communication prideful words destructive words tearing people down instead of building people up

[26:44] I like the scripture that says let all things be done unto edifying let all things be done unto edifying so if it's not edifying don't do it if it's not edifying don't say it edifying means building up we should be building up one another Paul says let all things all things be done unto edifying so if there's something that someone's gossiping in our ear we don't go telling it or communicating it if it's not going to build up then don't say it don't repeat it don't share it don't come out with it let all things be done to edifying so if it's not edifying don't do it it's tearing down instead of building up now of course there is a place to tear things down if it's false doctrine we will tear that down but by and large there is a building up that's the emphasis is the edifying it's encouragement it's bringing godliness and encouraging growth and nurturing the people of God it's bringing unity not disunity it's bringing harmony not disharmony it's bringing blessing and reconciliation not causing strife let all things be done unto edifying let's have that heart that will actually stop and think actually if that's not edifying

I'm not going to say it if that's not edifying I'm not going to do it because let all things be done unto edifying of some it says that their mouths need to be stopped there's some who are bent on bitterness and strife confusion and every evil work talks about that in James 3 16 for where envy and strife is there is confusion and every evil work how things could have been different if the ten spies had just zipped the lip and not said the negative words if the ten spies had stopped their mouths and hadn't said about the giants the giants the giants they're the scaremongering about the giants instead of actually like Caleb and Joshua we are well able God's in this we're going to overcome because God is with us we can believe God it's his promise how things could have been different if the ten spies had stopped their mouths how things could have been different if the people had simply believed the promise of God when we look with the eyes of faith like Caleb and Joshua and see the land it's flowing with milk it's flowing with honey and we are well able it's the promised land

God's promised it to us when we look with the eyes of faith and speak with the voice of faith and believe God can deliver us and deliver on his promises or will we be like the ten that disbelieve God we can be like that in any kind of dimension of our lives and of our walk with God we can see oh it's too hard I'm not going to even try to serve God I'm not going to even try to step out in some kind of ministry and try to give myself as a living sacrifice it's going to be too hard because I'm not able join the club we're all not able but he is able amen he is able to work wonders in any human vessel that he fills will we believe God on his promises or will we be like the multitude that incurred the judgment of God and they missed out on the blessing they missed out on the promises they missed out on the land flowing with milk and honey they missed out on his hand of blessing will we see the giants before us and doubt

God or will we see ourselves as instruments of his hand will we see ourselves and say that we are not able but yet we believe that God is able what giants are you facing in your life today will you believe God sure enough there's going to be some fighting there was some fighting to go on in that promised land but God was with them will you believe God to overcome your Christian life there's temptations there's trials there's tests your faith is tested it's going through a fire is it going to come forth as gold you've got to go through the fire then the gold don't shy away from the furnace of affliction if it need be that the gold will be tried and it will be purified in Joshua 14 we pick it up that Caleb is now 85 years old and he recounted what had happened now you might say I'm getting on in years it doesn't matter how old we are here's

Caleb he's 85 it's just beginning he's about to step into the promised land so you might say oh preacher I'm getting old in the tooth there's only so much I can do now Caleb was now 85 years old and what happens in Joshua 14 Joshua chapter 14 he recounted what had happened it was 40 years of waiting of wandering in the wilderness Joshua is here Caleb and Caleb still believed the

promise of God it says there verse 8 Joshua 14 verse 8 nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt but I wholly followed the Lord my God those 10 made the heart of the people melt everybody packed it in it was just the majority gave up the fight they gave up the promise they gave up the faith to believe

[32:20] God 2 million 10 changed the hearts to 2 million they made the heart of the people melt Caleb says but I wholly followed the Lord can we have the heart like Joshua to wholly follow the Lord to have a whole hearted faith and then it reads on verse 12 Joshua 14 12 Caleb says to Joshua give me this mountain Joshua wanted to know where Caleb wanted to put his home to settle and Caleb said give me this mountain we see Caleb's boldness and determination which mountain which mountain did Caleb want it was the mountain where the giants were the mountain where the giants were where the Anakim the sons of Anak they were there Caleb said give me this mountain the mountain where the giants are the mountain where the heavily fortified city is where the

Anakim are the giants of the land Caleb didn't say he didn't pick an easy place he said give me the mountain I want that one I'm going to believe God for the mountain and he wanted to be where the challenges were so Caleb here he's 85 he still believes God his faith is still strong he still believes God's going to fulfill his word he had the courage to claim this difficult territory he says give me this mountain we see his unwavering faith friends you could have had 40 years I know this one of my friends here he had 40 years backsliding that's his that's his testimony but God still had his hand on him and now his life changes at 40 years of backsliding life changes 40 years of backsliding now I'm going to stand now I'm going to stand there's years that the locusts have eaten but I'm going to stand that could be your testimony today

Caleb 85 unwavering in his faith and old Caleb says this give me this mountain the mountain was Hebron Hebron which means fellowship Hebron means fellowship Hebron became his inheritance it became a city of refuge a place of spiritual rest and communion with God think of what could have been different of a generation that missed out on the blessing they listened to the negative report they doubted they fell for the negative report they missed the blessing think of it today brothers and sisters for each one of us there's a lot of Christians these days that are missing blessing many are living defeated lives their Christian life is stuck they're stuck give me this mountain

I'm going to wholly follow the Lord I'm going to follow Jesus fully follow him follow him with all my heart follow him heartily but many are living defeated lives we see 1 John 5 4 it says you know we can walk by faith or we can stay under a cloud of doubt we can listen to the 10 who say it's too hard there's giants we're like grasshoppers there's got no hope pack it in go back to Egypt like Caleb you can trust God's promises there's people against the things of God there's even mean spirited fellow Christians mean spirited people speaking evil they don't even know us they're speaking evil this must be our response faith is the victory give me this mountain it's

Hebron fellowship let's be encouraged to see God can work wonders even despite us despite all our failings and frailties friends don't be discouraged when we hear a negative report it's the enemy it's the accuser of the brethren who would say you're not able we could have said that day one why would we even volunteer to serve to take on a challenge give me this mountain let us pray Lord we thank you that we can have another spirit like Caleb as he in faith saw your promises and he believed Lord he saw your power in his own weakness he could see you could be strong Lord help us we pray if there's any here to trust tonight who have yet to trust you who have yet to trust your saving grace if there's any here under the sound of my voice that has yet to trust you for their salvation that they would say

[38:02] Lord Jesus you died for my sin you paid for it all and I can trust you for time and for eternity to know you paid for my sin and my sin is forgiven by my trust in you by my faith in you it's taken away and I can walk in new life and know your grace from now forever Lord help us as the people of God that all things will be done unto edifying that we won't be deterred by those who would murmur or scorn by evil reports Lord we pray that we might encourage one another to see that you are able to do amazing abundant above all that we can ask or think more than we could even pray for or believe for

Lord we thank you that you're able and we can have another spirit like Caleb he wasn't swayed by the naysayers but he believed your promises and Lord we see the promises of God they're yey and amen there's exceeding great and precious promises we can know that we're more than conquerors we can know that we have a victory that overcomes the world even our faith whatever it be we know there's some well all of us amongst us have got something we're battling there's some trial some test there's some disquiet there's some challenge Lord we know that's life it's everyday life but yet we know that whatever the giants are whatever the giants we face we can say give me this mountain we can believe you Lord for you to help us even take the land from the giants as it were to overcome all the power of the evil one Lord we know that we're more than conquerors we know that we're overcomers we know

Lord that we are well able because you are with us not by our own strength with the daily fight the daily struggles Lord we pray for one another that will be encouraged everyone's got their battle their fighting help us to be understanding to love one another to help one another to grow in our faith our mutual common faith help us to overcome when the enemy throws his fiery darts Lord help us to lift up the shield of faith to believe you even more for the blessings that you give to us strengthen us for this fight enable us in this race we pray if there's any yet to trust you they'll trust you now and for any that are struggling Lord we know it says that the righteous are going to fall time and time again but you're going to lift them up time and time again we're going to fall we're going lift us up and we thank you

Lord for your grace is all sufficient for everyone who puts their trust in you in Jesus name Amen