

# Follow God Wholeheartedly

(Part 1)

*“<sup>6</sup> Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, 'You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. <sup>7</sup> 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, <sup>8</sup> but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> '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 desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.' <sup>13</sup> Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. <sup>14</sup> So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. <sup>15</sup> (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.) Then the land had rest from war.” (Joshua 14:6-15)*

After the people of God left Egypt under the leadership of Moses, they crossed the red sea and moved to Mountain Sinai where they received the Law of God. Then from there they move to **Kadesh Barnea** where they reached to the edge of the promise land. Here at this point, Moses sent twelve men to explore the Land. A man from every tribe, and he told them, **“Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)” (Numbers 13: 17-20)** So the men did as Moses had commanded them; they went and explore the land and brought with them the specimen that Moses asked them to bring. But out of the twelve only two of them they give a good report. But the rest, the report they gave made the people heart melt with fear.

Joshua and Caleb gave good report that based on true faith on God. But the other did not give good report. Here in this message there are two words give the reason why the people divided, and why few gave good report but the majority gave bad reports. These words are *faith* or *fear*.

Faith is from God; faith is putting full trust in God and on His Word. Faith it has also to be manifested as acts of obedience. Why Joshua and Caleb gave good report? Because they have a true and sincere faith in God, and they were willing to believe God that he can do the impossible to them. As well as both of them have willingness to obey God and go along with Him doing His plan and will.

**Caleb said, “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.”** Now why we find the men whom Moses sent were divided in the way they give their reports about the promise land? Because they have different convictions; Joshua and Caleb they were willing to obey God and walk in His ways. Their hearts, minds, souls and spirits tune with God, tuned with the plan of God and what he wants to do in their lives. They had faith in God and believe in Him that He can and He will do the impossible for them because their style of life and living is total surrender, trust and obedience to the Lord. So they did not find it difficult to believe that God would give them the land even if it were hard. In fact they made it very clear to the people as they told them, **“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.”**

But when the convictions of the people are full of fears because of their non-willingness to follow God and walks in His ways, then you will find the people are reluctant to go forward with the good plan of God that He had prepared for them. Fear is due to their non-willingness to obey God and live in His ways.

Calib said, **“I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.”** This is what God expects from each and every one of us, to follow Him wholeheartedly. Not half-heartedly, not quarter heartedly, not even ninety nine percent but hundred percent. Your heart should be purely for God. There should not be any impurity or wrong motive in following God and walking in His ways. God wants us to be imitators of Him and live the life of love that we receive from Him through Jesus Christ our Lord who offers Himself on the cross for our sins.

Caleb was 40 years old when he received God’s promise to inherit that part of the land and to be for him and for his children. God fulfilled His promise to him after forty five years when he became eighty five years old. Down this long period of time Caleb followed God wholeheartedly. And that what exactly God wants from you, **“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.” (Ephesians 5:3-7)**

**My Dear and Beloved:** Have faith in God and trust Him wholeheartedly. Commit your life, body, soul and spirit to Him and walk in His ways. Trust Him that He will fulfill what He had promised you. He will preserve your body and keep you physically fit and vigorous as a young man to possess and enjoy what He had promised you as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord from this time on I commit my body, soul and spirit in your hand to go on and serve you and walk in your ways wholeheartedly believing that you will preserve me to conquer and to enjoy what you had promised me. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*