

# DARE TO BE DIFFERENT (Part 1): Caleb - A Different Spirit

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. True believers are brand-new creations born from above (not sinners with a little religion!):
1. **John 3:7:** *You should not be surprised at My saying, “You must be **born again** [lit. “from above”].”*
  2. **2 Cor. 5:17** (NKJV): *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**.*
  3. **Ezek. 36:26-27:** <sup>26</sup>*I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.*
- B. True believers are *in* the world but not *of* the world:
1. **John 17:14-19:** <sup>14</sup>*I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for **they are not of the world any more than I am of the world**. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>**They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.** <sup>17</sup>**Sanctify them** by the truth; Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.*
  2. **Gal. 6:14:** *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which **the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world**.*
- C. True believers are different—not weird or religious—they are separated, set apart. In this two-part study, we will examine a few biblical characters who demonstrated this quality in inspiring ways:
1. Caleb – A Different Spirit (Part 1)
  2. Daniel and His Friends (Part 2)

## II. CALEB - A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

### A. Background

1. Moses sent 12 spies into the Promised Land (**Num. 13:17-21**):

*<sup>17</sup>When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup>See **what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.** <sup>19</sup>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? <sup>20</sup>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.) <sup>21</sup>So they went up and explored the land...*

2. But the plan was really the people's idea born out of rebellion and unbelief (**Deut. 1:20-23**):

*<sup>20</sup>Then I said to you, "You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. <sup>21</sup>See, the LORD your **God has given you the land. Go up and take possession** of it as the LORD, the God of your fathers, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." <sup>22</sup>Then **all of you came to me and said**, "Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to." <sup>23</sup>**The idea seemed good to me**; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.*

- a) The failure of human wisdom (**Prov. 3:5-7**):

*<sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup>**Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.***

- b) **Prov. 14:12**: *There is **a way that seems right** to a man, but in the end it **leads to death.***

3. God had already told Moses and the people about the land He was giving them:

- a) At the burning bush (**Ex. 3:8**):

*So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land*

*into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.*

- b) At Mt. Sinai (Ex. 23:23, 27-28, 31):

<sup>23</sup>My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and **I will wipe them out...** <sup>27</sup>I will send My terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. **I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run.** <sup>28</sup>I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way... <sup>31</sup>**I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the desert to the River. I will hand over to you the people who live in the land and you will drive them out before you.**

4. Ten of the twelve spies brought back an evil, discouraging report (Num. 13:25-33):

<sup>25</sup>At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land. <sup>26</sup>They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup>They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and **it does flow with milk and honey!** Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup>**BUT the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large.** We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup>The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup>Then **Caleb** silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for **we can** certainly do it.” <sup>31</sup>**BUT** the men who had gone up with him said, “**We can't** attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup>**And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored.** They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup>We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the

*Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.*”

5. God was so angry with their rebellion and unbelief that He destroyed the ten spies with a plague:

- a) **Num. 14:35-38:** <sup>35</sup>“*I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole **wicked** community, which has **banded together against Me**. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die.*” <sup>36</sup>*So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and **made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report** about it—* <sup>37</sup>*these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were **struck down and died of a plague** before the LORD.* <sup>38</sup>*Of the men who went to explore the land, **only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived.***
- b) Their evil report infected the whole community with a spirit of unbelief and disobedience (**Ps. 106:24-25**):  
<sup>24</sup>*They **despised the pleasant land; they did not believe His promise.*** <sup>25</sup>*They grumbled in their tents and **did not obey the LORD.***

B. Two spies had a different spirit

1. **Num. 14:6-10:** <sup>6</sup>*Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes* <sup>7</sup>*and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup>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.*** <sup>9</sup>*Only do not rebel against the LORD. And **do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.**”* <sup>10</sup>***BUT the whole assembly talked about stoning them.*** Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites.
2. **Num. 14:22-24:** <sup>22</sup>*Not one of the men who saw My glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed Me and tested Me ten times—* <sup>23</sup>***not one** of them will ever see the **land I promised on oath** to their forefathers. **No one** who has treated Me with*

contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup>But because **My servant Caleb has a different spirit** and follows Me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Three-  
millionths  
of a  
percent  
made it  
in!

3. If we are going to be overcoming champions who inherit the Promised Land, we must be *different*—we will be in the minority: 2/12 (16%) ... 2/600,000 (0.000003%)!

4. NOTE: They were not popular—everyone else in the congregation wanted to stone them!

#### C. Caleb had a spirit of faith

1. Faith is spiritual (**2 Cor. 4:13**): *It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same **spirit of faith** we also believe and therefore speak.*
2. Caleb simply declared what he believed—all that God had promised about this PROMISED LAND—God said it, that settled it!

3. He knew God is trustworthy, that He cannot lie, and He takes His promises very seriously (**2 Cor. 1:20** NKJV):

***For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.***

4. Caleb had an “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” spirit; He knew there is nothing God cannot do!

#### D. Years later, Joshua and Caleb were still strong in faith:

1. **Josh. 23:1-3, 9, 14:** <sup>1</sup>*After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then old and well advanced in years,* <sup>2</sup>*summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: “I am old and well advanced in years. <sup>3</sup>You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you... <sup>9</sup>The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you... <sup>14</sup>Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that **not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.**”*

2. **Josh. 14:6-14:** *<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.*

### III. LESSONS FROM CALEB

- A. We need a spirit of faith—every promise of God is true!
- B. Don’t lean on human wisdom or understanding—listen to the Word of God!
- C. Don’t allow negative people/reports to corrupt your faith.
- D. Remember what God has promised and what He has done.
- E. Don’t follow the crowd—they’re usually wrong! Dare to be different!