



Part 4 • THE FAITH OF CALEB

About Caleb.

1. Caleb was born in slavery in Egypt and enjoyed the great Exodus of Israel from Egypt's 400 year bondage. Caleb also experienced the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai.
2. Moses appointed 12 men, one from each tribe to explore the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1-25). Joshua and Caleb were honored to be among that group. When they returned, 10 spies brought back an evil report and stirred up the Israelites to question God's motive. Caleb, attempted to quiet them and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." (Numbers 13:30 and 14:6-10) However, the Israelites, seized with fear and believing themselves to be mere grasshoppers (Numbers 13:33), rebelled against God and refused to enter the land God had promised them. As a result, they were judged to wander in the wilderness until that generation had died in the desert (14:26-35)
3. Caleb, along with Moses and Joshua, had to endure 40 years of Israel murmuring and rebelling against God. It appears that he and Joshua were successful in not developing a bitter spirit against the people of Israel. He accepted the judgement along with his people... BUT God blessed Caleb because he had a different spirit (attitude) than the rest of the people. (Numbers 14:24)
4. When they possessed the Promised Land, Joshua, the new leader, gave Caleb the territory of Hebron, the area around

Jerusalem. Hebron belonged to the Anakites, a race of giants and descendants of the Nephilim. Although extremely fierce, they proved to be no match for Caleb and God's people!

Caleb's Faith.

1. **Stand firm when it's not popular** -- Upon returning from the land of Canaan, 10 spies spread an evil report about the land and its inhabitants, that they were giants and too strong for Israel.
 - Caleb (and Joshua) stood firm and said, "*Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.*" (13:26-33)
2. **Have a different attitude** -- Caleb had a different spirit or attitude from those rebelling against God's promise. Because of that God promised to bring him into his inheritance.
 - Numbers 14:24 *But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.*
3. **God blesses persistent faith** -- Caleb kept the promise of his inheritance his entire life! At 85 years, Caleb was bold and courageous, dedicated to God, vigorous, faithful and invincible even in old age when he drove out the giants from his inheritance. He had a different heart all the way through.
 - Joshua 14:9-12 *"...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."*
 - Paul's tenacity in Philippians 3:12-15 *...I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*