

***CALEB: A MODEL OF COURAGE,  
CONVICTION, & CONFIDENCE***  
**JOSHUA 14:6-12**

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**Woodland Park Church of Christ**  
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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. <sup>7</sup> *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.* <sup>8</sup> Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, ***but I wholly followed the LORD my God.*** <sup>9</sup> 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.’***

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> 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.***”

**Joshua 14:6-12**

## BACKDROP

- Recall how Moses sent 12 men to spy out and report on Canaan shortly after the Exodus from Egypt. **Numbers 13-14**
- All but Joshua and Caleb brought back evil reports, which caused the people to lose faith and their hearts to melt.
- Caleb – Quieted the people, saying “Let us go up at once and take possession, *for we are well able to overcome it.*”  
**Numbers 13:30**
- Of course, the voice more entuned with God was drowned out and could not sway the masses – this is what happens often today.

Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?”<sup>4</sup> So they said to one another, “Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.” **Numbers 14:3-4**

→ Forty year sojourn in the wilderness. **Num 14:26-38**

- Still, few want to cling to God's way and will.
- Focus is on the problems and difficulty and immediate satisfaction, instead of the Master.
- Now when it is time to partition the land of Canaan and apportion to each tribe its inheritance, Caleb is at the head of the line.
- In fact, he gets his individual share apart from the rest of his tribe (Judah).
- Caleb had a COURAGE, CONVICTION, and CONFIDENCE that positioned him to be the man God intended.
- Even today, God's people are called to have courage, conviction, and confidence to overcome and put (keep) the devil in his place!

- Now, more than ever, God's people need to rise up and stand for something.
- We see the aftermath and devastation of people not living for the Lord and jettisoning godliness.
- Instead of people making God a priority, God is relegated to subordinate and minor roles in the lives of many.
- Consequently, heavy prices are paid.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup> ***Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*** **Galatians 6:7-8 [NIV]**

## I. **COURAGE – Boldness in time of trial!**

- It takes courage to stand in the face of the enemy and obstacles and to defeat formidable foes!
- God expects his people to have heart and a predisposition to not be moved by fear but by faith!

***Be strong and of good courage***, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup> ***Only be strong and very courageous***, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; ***do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.***

**Joshua 1:6-7**

- When your courage (nerve) starts to slip, measure the giants in your life against God's strength, not your own or that of man.

God removes the “im” from “impossible” and gives us hope and provides strength in the bleakest of situations!

When His disciples heard *it*, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>26</sup> But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, “***With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.***” **Matthew 19:25-26**

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (self-discipline).* **II Timothy 1:7**

***Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer.*** *Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested . . . Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.* **Revelation 2:10**



## II. CONVICTION – Being on a mission refusing to be distracted, deterred, or dissuaded.

Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, *but I wholly followed the LORD my God.* **Joshua 14:8**

- People who succeed and overcome are those who have conviction.
- We sometimes call it being “ALL IN!”
- Conviction helps define priorities, keeps us grounded, and powers us past peer pressure and other things that would otherwise derail us.

**Irrespective of the lure and attraction of what is being offered, conviction restrains us.**

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. <sup>9</sup> *There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"** **Genesis 39:7-9**

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. <sup>51</sup> And suddenly, one of those *who were* with Jesus stretched out *his* hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> ***Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”*** **Matthew 26:50b-54**

By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, <sup>25</sup> ***choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God*** than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, <sup>26</sup> ***esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt;*** for he looked to the reward. **Hebrews 11:24-26**

# CONTEMPORARY CONVICTION

Tampa Bay Rays pitchers **Jason Adam, Jeffrey Springs, Ryan Thompson, Brooks Rally and Jalen Beeks** refused to wear uniforms with a rainbow-colored Rays starburst logo on the right sleeve, and a hat with a rainbow-colored “TB” logo for gay pride celebration.

Based on their individual religious beliefs opposing the homosexual “lifestyle.”

“It’s just that maybe we don’t want to encourage it if we believe in Jesus, who’s encouraged us to live a lifestyle that would abstain from that behavior.” **See Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 6:9-10; I Timothy 1:9-10**

- **Of course, backlash and name-calling have ensued, but the players remain undaunted.**

### **III. CONFIDENCE – A faith-fueled assurance that God is who He says He is!**

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.*** Joshua 14:12

**At 85 years of age, Caleb welcomes the challenge of the physical giants (the Anakim) because he knows God has his back and is true to His word.**

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **Hebrews 11:6**

**Believe in Him and then be confident that He will deliver!**

The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD *is* the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? <sup>2</sup> When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell. <sup>3</sup> ***Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.***  
**Psalm 27:1-3**

**Like Caleb, God's people must be --**

***COURAGEOUS*** enough to stand firm in the face of ominous opposition!

***CONVICTED*** enough to make God a NUMBER 1 priority and refuse to let anything stand between them and God!

***CONFIDENT*** enough to believe that God will bring us through whatever He sets before us!



# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body**

**Hear the Gospel** (Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17)

**Believe** (Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17)

**Repent** (Acts 2:38)

**Confess** (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10)

**Be baptized** (Acts 2:38, 8:38)

## Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- **Be reconciled unto the Lord** (I John 1:8-9); or
- **Desire prayer** (James 5:16).