

Caleb

“Young Lions”



“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.”
Numbers 14:24

One of the well-known heroes of the Old Testament was Joshua, the military leader who led Israel into the Promised Land. However, right beside him was Caleb. While Caleb does not have as many verses dedicated to him in the Bible, what we are told in a few words speaks volumes about Caleb's being a dedicated servant to God.

As Moses was setting out to lead the people from enslavement God told him to choose 12 men, one from each tribe. One of those leaders was Caleb from the tribe of Judah. Moses sent these men into the land of Canaan to see if the land was good or bad and whether

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report in some ways. A bunch of grapes was so large it took two men to carry it! The pomegranates and figs were huge, and the land had a real abundance of fruit, milk and honey. Numbers 13. It was indeed a wonderful land that God had promised them, but they had to have faith. There are so many promises out there for us each day, but we like the men who were afraid often miss a wonderful blessing. We fail to accept that God is always in control. He already has a solution to a problem that we haven't even recognized yet. But he also has a dream just as big or bigger for us if we have faith.

The people also had many concerns. Their faith was not as strong. They were not favorably impressed. Actually they were fearful. They said that some

or not the land that was promised to them was worth fighting for. The men searched the land for forty days and brought back an amazing

Faith
is seeing light
with your heart
when all your eyes
see is darkness

Of the men were giants and the cities were huge and were surrounded by very strong walls. In fact, according to Numbers 14, the people were so scared they wept all night and wanted to go back into slavery in Egypt rather than fight the monsters the spies had described.

Caleb interrupted their tales and said *“Let's go up and take the land—now. We can do it.”* However, they replied: *“We can't attack those people; they're way stronger than we are.”* They spread scary rumors among the People of Israel. They said, *“We scouted out the land from one end to the other—it's a land that swallows people whole. Everybody we saw was huge. Why, we even saw the Nephilim giants. Alongside them we felt like grasshoppers. And they looked down on us as if we were grasshoppers.”* Numbers 13:31-33
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“God allows us to experience the low points of life in order to teach us lessons that we could learn in no other way.”

— C.S. Lewis

Joshua joined Caleb and so did Moses and Aaron. As they were speaking to the people and trying to calm their fears and tell them God would be with them as he had promised a great light appeared at the tent so that every Israelite could see it. The people had been threatening to stone Moses and Aaron and get a new leader, leaders

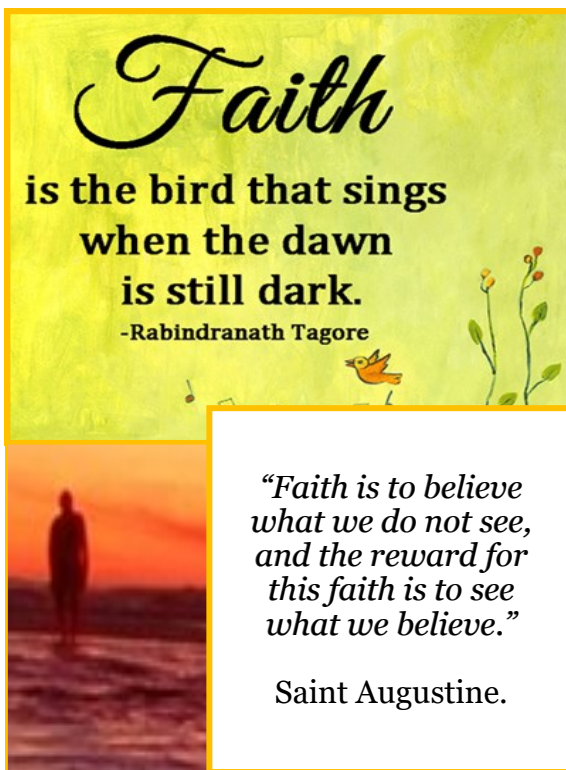


that wouldn't make them go into the land of giants. God threatened to have a plague enter their lives and destroy them, but Moses begged for forgiveness for the people. God did not send a plague, but he did punish them for their lack of faith in his Word—all except Caleb. Numbers 14:24 tells us: *"But my servant Caleb—this is a different story. He has a different spirit; he follows me passionately. I'll bring him into the land that he scouted and his children will inherit it."*

Sadly, the people turned away from the land of God's promise and wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults died, except Joshua and Caleb. God kept his promise and gave Caleb all the land that he had seen.

Scripture speaks often of God's faithfulness. Over and over we learn that when God says He will do something,

He does it. We are not always so faithful. It is easy to be faithful when everything is going our way, but when we fear that something may not go the way we plan it our faith wavers. Faithfulness is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There are many facets to faithfulness. We can be faithful to God as Caleb was. We can be faithful to our spouse, our job, or dreams and ambitions. God does not punish us when we are unfaithful. We punish ourselves, but we want to put the blame somewhere, so we often try to put it on God's shoulders. The wonderful knowledge given to us is that He will help us in our unfaithfulness if we only ask.



"Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward for this faith is to see what we believe."

Saint Augustine.

Prayer: Lord, You are always faithful to us. Unfortunately we are not always faithful to You. Help us to realize the disappointment that we give to You each day, and seek to be more loving, understanding, and devoted to Your way for us on this earth. Amen

1. What is faith?
2. How can we be faithful to God?
3. Is it possible to always be faithful?
4. How is faith a relationship?
5. For forty years of wandering in the wilderness Caleb had faith that God would keep his promise. Is it possible for us to have the same faith as Caleb?
6. Do we have the faith of a bird?

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