

# Wholehearted: The Story Of Caleb

## Numbers 13:26-33

### **1John 4:1**

*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

Even Apostle Paul was subject to testing by the Bereans (Acts 17:10-11). We must test all teaching and preaching from God's Word—using God's Word. To accomplish this, we must be established in Holy Scripture, studying it and meditating on it day and night (Psalm 1:2).

### **2Timothy 2:15**

*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

His Word deserves our diligent study and meditation. A cursory glance at a verse or two taken out of context to serve our own ends will never gain God's approval. The whole counsel of God is anointed and we will never exhaust its riches. So let's dig in! See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

There it is, folks. We are to stay focused on God and His Word—especially in these deceitful end times. We dare not become sidelined by celebrity preachers, prosperity messages, or pastors playing the priest. Nothing and no one deserves our attention and affection above Jesus our Lord. Nothing (Psalm 115:1). We must stay focused on prayer, the Word of God and the perfect Person of Jesus Christ:

### **Hebrews 12:2**

*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### **2Timothy 4:1-4**

*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Though these words from Paul were directed to Timothy to encourage his young understudy, we are very much living in the times he is describing—among the idols of self and sensuality. False teachers need like-minded followers to thrive. Therefore they appeal to the spirit of the world:

**1John 2:15-17**

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

Our focus cannot be on the false but on the true. Here it is:

**Ephesians 4:14-16**

*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

Our unity in the Body Of Christ is found in the speaking and obeying of God's truth in love—out of love for Him—far above all human agency.

By observing a few verses from last week's passage, we can glean a more complete picture of where the motivation to send twelve men to spy out Canaan actually originated:

**Numbers 13:1-3**

*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.*

With further study, we make this surprising discovery:

**Deuteronomy 1:21-23**

*Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come. And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:*

We will send men before us. So It was the Israelites' idea to send twelve men to spy out the land! God allowed it in order to continue to test their faith and their faithfulness to Him. In the end, just two were found faithful. Two believed God.

**Numbers 13:26**

*And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.*

What bountiful clusters of grapes, pomegranates, and figs! Israel was used to more modest harvests. The fruit that the twelve leaders brought back from the fresh harvest was evidence enough—nothing less than the fulfillment of God’s promise that the Israelites would find Canaan to be a land flowing with milk and honey:

**Exodus 3:16-17**

*Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.*

**Numbers 13:27**

*And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.*

The report of the twelve men begins on a praiseworthy note, but falls flat in giving God any praise.

**Numbers 13:28**

*Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.*

The scouts/spies then convey their terror and fear at the descendants of Anak dwelling in Canaan—giants standing seven to nine feet tall! The other inhabitants of the land are described as being “strong” and obviously intimidating. The military fortresses were also a new sight to these twelve men. A battle-ready foe ready to go! No wonder they were scared!

**Numbers 13:29**

*The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.*

God had already given a preview of who the inhabitants were in Exodus 3:17. The unbelief of the Israelites as a whole was now on display. No one believed God. Except two. Joshua and Caleb:

**Numbers 13:30**

*And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*

Not only did Caleb believe God, he was ready to seize God’s promises and act upon them by faith—immediately!

\*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: When God reveals a task for you to carry out, do you obey and act right away, or do you delay and ask for more clarity? How will you garner more faith to believe and act promptly upon God's clear will in His Word?

\*STUDY POINT: Conduct a personal Bible study entitled "Obedient Women and Men in the Bible." Approach it academically; approach it devotionally; include Scripture references.

### **Numbers 13:31**

*But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.*

What does unbelief in God look like? This!

### **Numbers 13:32**

*And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.*

Now their report becomes rife with negative hyperbole, unbelief, and evil. And those giants...

### **Numbers 13:33**

*And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.*

Ultimately, the Israelites would pay a dear price for their absence of faith in God. Beloved, there is not one of us who hasn't resembled the Israelites on their worst day—all but abandoning the grace and mercy of Jesus. However, like the Israelites, we have to exercise our faith in God's Word. And the reward for doing so?

### **Psalm 146:3-5**

*Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:*

Hallelujah!

~ Reverend Darren McClelland