

03/05/06 – “CALEB – A DIFFERENT SPIRIT”
03/12/06 – “THE CHARACTER OF CALEB”

“But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.” - Numbers 14:24 - What is a different spirit? To follow the Lord fully?

GIANTS ARE TO BE DEFEATED

Attributes..Big, Strong, Powerful... Their apparent power can make us cower into fear and anxiety - We're to face giants and defeat them
Persona..Defiant, Proud, Destructive... Will challenge you that God isn't faithful in your situation... **taunts and tempts us to limit God**
Tactics..Intimidation and Accusation... Is there anything in your life that intimidates, bullies or accuses you? – Is there a giant to be slain?
Goals..Surrender, Defeat and Slavery... Disobedience and compromise will not bring victory – **Never met a happy, backslidden Christian**
Target..Spirit,Soul and Body... “*A wounded spirit, who can bear?*” – **Our spirit can be wounded**
Emotions can easily determine perspective – Enemy nurtures deceptive feelings about God's faithfulness in your circumstances
The enemy will also attack our body... he'll afflict us if he can... Job, Paul and others **learned to trust God's grace in adversity**
Weapons..Lies, fear and deception - Lies always have a little bit of truth...that's why they seem plausible – **Fear of God militates against deception**
Effect..Unbelief and wandering - Wandering is a type of judgment...journey to nowhere - **Unbelief and defeat are giant's goal**

IDENTIFYING GIANTS

Bitterness..Hatred..Resentment...Hurts..Disappointments..living in the past... defeated and despondent
It is possible to be a Christian for many years and still have destructive and toxic attitudes in our lives
Ongoing setbacks germinate when we nurse disappointment and harbor resentment – Through Christ we can have victory and move on
Disappointment and hurt have happened to all of us, but we're not to live there - A giant will taunt and accuse to keep us living in the past
Believing you're unqualified is a lie – “...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”
Comfort and complacency... God didn't free Israel “to set up a spa” in the middle of the desert for comfort and complacency
The Lord wants to take us farther than we want to go – We don't know what God will do through our lives, but we can trust and obey
Jealousy and Envy – How do we respond when others are blessed more than us? - Envy is wanting something that God hasn't given to you
Forgiveness in word only... keeping score of offenses embitters and stifles – We are to forgive as Christ forgave... **from the heart**
Forgiveness can be very hard because we want justice so bad – Ultimate justice is up to God...deep wounds call for deep forgiveness
Giants are ugly – Sometimes they can be defeated instantly and other times it is a process – **Requires faith, patience and perseverance**

CALEB HAD A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

Steadfast in purpose – Never wavered – “*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*” - Philippians 3:14
Obedient to God – Believed and acted on God's promise – “*You are my friends, if you do what I command you.*” – John 15:14
Faithful Messenger – Caleb represented God truthfully risking his life– “*Every man proclaims his loyalty, who can find a truthful man?*”-Pr. 20:6
Courageous – Bravely proclaimed in front of 600,000 hostile people that God was faithful...Be strong and courageous – Joshua 1:9
Fear of God – Caleb feared God over man – “*The fear of the Lord leads to life, so that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.*” – Prov. 19:23
Circumstances were opportunities – Hostile desert, fierce giants, fortified cities but Caleb saw circumstances as God's opportunity to act
The giants in our lives are opportunities to show forth the glory of God and to overcome rather than fall into despair, dejection and defeat
A man or woman of a “different spirit” will see God in the worst of circumstances – Caleb and Joshua kept the Lord central, not themselves
Loyalties never wavered – Caleb was spiritual, not fickle or a “fair weather friend”...loyal and committed...followed the Lord fully
Faithful and patient – Because of the Israel's sins, Caleb had to spend an additional 38 years in the wilderness
Caleb had to raise up the children of the next generation to enter the land – **The promise of God never wavers though it tarries**
Vigorous in old age – Caleb received what he believed–Risked his life 40 years earlier, and at 85 realized the promise - Joshua 14:6-15
Caleb was given Hebron where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob are buried, the centerpiece of Israel – At 85 he killed remaining giants (Anakin)
Caleb is a great example to all of us – **Not just a man of great faith but a man that had faith in a great God**
Caleb's view of giants was to destroy, disinherit, dispossess and drive them out to possess the land – **He actually did what he believed**
Six times in the Bible it says that Caleb had followed the Lord fully – **Caleb had a different spirit and followed the Lord fully** (completely)
May we learn from his example and by God's grace be a people of a different spirit, following fully our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!