

## 03/19/06 – “THE FEAR OF GOD”

He that has an ear, let him hear – **Not everyone hears when God is speaking** – Can miss the day of His visitation

God is invisible seen through spiritual eyes – Now unto the King eternal, **invisible, immortal**, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever

Caleb and Joshua were two men who stood against incredible odds in hostile circumstances from Israel within and enemies without

The story of the spies is told in Deuteronomy, Numbers and Judges – 3,500 years later, **their story speaks to us as if they were right in this room**

There was a moment in time when they took their stand - **“The Lord our God will go before us.”** - **“We are able. It’s a good land. God will give it to us.”**

**Caleb and Joshua would have lost their lives if God had not intervened.**...the ten unfaithful spies were struck dead and Israel was judged

The entire generation of 20 years and up perished in the wilderness over a period of 40 years – God in His mercy gave them 40 years to repent

Many continued in rebellion – 250 leaders under Korah saw Moses as the cause of their problems and tried to usurp his authority

Moses was the most humble man on the earth...and God would make His choice –The ground opened and swallowed Korah and 250 of his cohorts

### **JOSHUA AND CALEB – MEN OF A DIFFERENT SPIRIT**

Joshua had been a servant to Moses for 40 years...there’s a virtue to learn about Joshua that can be missed... **his love of God’s presence**

Moses had left the tabernacle but Joshua would not leave the tent... **lingered in the presence of the Lord** – Exodus 33:11

**Joshua was a soldier but also a worshipper** – He worshipped in spirit and truth... mentored by Moses and loved God

Joshua was chosen to replace Moses – **How do you walk in those shoes?** – That’s why He was told so many times **to be “strong and courageous”**

Joshua led the children of Israel those 40 years in the wilderness, preparing and leading the children of Israel to possess the land

The last words of Joshua at the age of 110 were, **“As for me and my house, we’ll serve the Lord.”** – **Amazing resolve and clarity**

Joshua was still ready to face 600,000 angry men... **doesn’t fear man or follow the crowd or trends** – He **“had a different spirit”**

Caleb, whose name means boldness, was delayed 38 years in the wilderness because of the sins of others, but followed the Lord fully

After Israel had won many battles in the land...Caleb says to Joshua, **“Give me my mountain as Moses promised.”**

The mountain was in the heart of Hebron where the sons of Anak lived... Caleb walked in faith and possessed his inheritance

When he got his mountain, he continued in battle and killed the last remaining giants at the age of 85 – An amazing warrior and man of God

**Caleb and Joshua never retired from the Lord**...they walked with their entire heart after the Lord... **following the Lord fully (completely)**

**The Lord our God goes before us and is already where we are going – He’s leading us and preparing a place both here and eternally**

### **FEAR OF GOD**

*“...what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...”* – Deut. 10:12 - **The Lord requires us to fear the Lord**

An absence of the fear of God...being careless or brazen in our faith results in familiarity, religious nominalism and ultimately darkness

**The fear of God is deep and substantive – It’s respect, reverence, not slavish fear from guilt but reverent love and circumspection**

The fear of God will keep us in proper relationship to God when other things forsake us- The fear of God is identical to love and service

In order to fight a giant, we have to know who we are in Christ –Identity in Christ is what gives us the authority in the place of battle

When we know who we are and who God is, walking in obedience, we become dangerous to the works of the evil one

### **John Norton’s points about our Identity**

1. Present myself to God daily – Report for duty – Read the battle plan (Scriptures)
2. Ask Him to fit me for battle – Arm me appropriately
3. Be loyal to your colors – The flag you fly in spiritual battle – Loyal to proclaiming under whose banner we fight