

Caleb & Joshua

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I am knee deep into a spiritual journey that is daunting, intimidating, inspirational, and uplifting all at the same time. A good friend and colleague of mine, [Dr. Mark Straus](#), introduced me to [The Bible in 90 Days](#). Essentially, you read 12 pages a day beginning with Genesis and in 90 days you will have read the entire Bible. I know it seems a bit overwhelming yet how many of us have lost steam reading through the Bible in a year? It allows you to “read the Bible as a story.” It provides a “a sense of cohesiveness to God and His purposes for humanity.” I am 12 days into the journey and I have found the claims of this approach to be accurate.

In any case, as I continue on this journey I will be sharing my insights with you along the way. I may also choose to share things about other passages I come across in other ways. I will call this category *Scriptural Musings*. If you find them helpful simply select this category and it will give you my entries as they are posted.

This morning I was particularly struck by the courage and focus of Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 13 and 14). After spying out the land with 10 others, a leader from each of the tribes of Israel, they alone stressed the need to take the land. In the face of a concerned report from the others, Caleb, the Bible says, “*silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.’*” The others were afraid and cautious. Because the 10 naysayers spread a “bad report” the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, threatened to pick a new leader to take them back to Egypt, and talked about stoning not only Moses and Aaron but Joshua and Caleb as well.

Joshua pleaded with them to reconsider their fearful opinion and threatening rhetoric. “*If the Lord is pleased with us, he will load us into the land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.*”

God's response to the naysayers and all who agreed with them was quick and sure. Not one of them would ever see the promised-land. They would wander for 40 years, one year for every day in the spied-out land, and perish in the desert. God makes an exception for Caleb and Joshua. Of Caleb He says, “***But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.***”

I consider Caleb and Joshua warriors after God's heart. Why? Because they didn't follow the crowd or conventional wisdom. They didn't compromise their

position or trust. They 'stood in bold relief.' God Himself said of Caleb that he had a "different spirit" and that he "follows me wholeheartedly." A warrior after God's heart has a different spirit than the world around him. A warrior after God's heart follows Him w not half heartedly, not faint heartedly, but wholeheartedly. Where is your allegiance? What report do you bring to those God has called you to serve? Is your courage in God or do you fear the criticisms of others bent on half measures and weather-vane wisdom? God is looking for men who will follow Him wholeheartedly even if it means they stand apart from the world around them.

Have courage men, we have a Great Commander.