



HOAW Newsletter

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HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Lessons from Caleb

Dr. Greg Bourgond

Os Guinness, in his book *The Call*, cites three reasons for the conspicuous absence of heroes.

First, we live in *a cynical age that respects nothing and reveres nobody*. Guinness wrote, "As modern people, we look not for the golden aura but for the feet of clay, not for the stirring example but for the cynical motive."

Second, we see fewer heroes for the very simple reason that there aren't as many around! *We have traded heroes for celebrities*. As everybody knows, celebrities are just people who are famous for being well-known. It is not that they have achieved anything of profound significance or have invested their lives in some noble venture that will change the lot of humanity for the better (*Jon Stewart, Bill Mahar, Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan, the Kardashian's*). They just happened to be around doing something when the

lights came on and the cameras started to roll.

Third, we are lacking in heroes because *we have lost sight of God as an active participant in human lives*. So, we lack the ability to see God calling men to live for him and his cause, which transcends anything humans can envisage. Having such a calling gave men's lives grandeur and nobility of purpose, with the result that many became true heroes.

Caleb stands boldly against a majority and almost lost his life as a result.

Have you ever been in a minority, over-ruled by a majority, but later proven to be right? Truth is not always on the side of the majority.

One keen observer has noted that "the voice of the minority is not often given a hearing. Nevertheless, truth cannot be measured by numbers. On the contrary, it often stands against majority opinion. Truth remains unchanged because it is guaranteed by the character of God. God is truth;

what He says is the last word. At times, a person must stand alone on the side of truth." **Caleb**, spy, warrior, and shepherd, along with Joshua, expressed a minority position against a majority who thought otherwise. Caleb was a man of courage, valor, and integrity.

Numbers 14:24 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. NIV

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary summarizes his life as follows.

"The first mention of Caleb was his appointment at the age of forty years (Josh 14:6-7) as one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to explore Canaan (Num 13:6,17-25), c. 1440 B.C. On their return all the spies agreed respecting the preeminent goodness of the land but differed in their advice to the people. While the ten others announced the inability of Israel to overcome the Canaanites, Caleb and Joshua spoke encouragingly. They

admitted the strength and stature of the people and the greatness of the walled cities but were far from despairing. Caleb, stilling the people before Moses, exhorted them earnestly and boldly, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it" (Num 13:30). For this act of faithfulness, repeated the following day, Caleb and Joshua barely escaped being stoned by the people (14:10). Moses announced to the congregation, however, that they alone, of all the people over twenty years of age, should enter into the Promised Land, and in a plague that shortly followed the other spies died (14:26-38). A special promise was given to Caleb that he should enter the land that he had trodden upon, and that his seed should possess it (14:24)."

"We find no further mention of Caleb until about forty-five years after. The land was being divided, and he claimed the special inheritance promised by Moses as a reward of his fidelity. His claim was admitted, and Joshua added his blessing. Caleb, who at the age of eighty-five was still as strong for war as when he was forty, drove out the Anakim from Hebron (Josh 14:6-15; 15:14). He then attacked Debir (Kiriath-sepher), to the SW of Hebron. This town must have been strong and hard to conquer, for Caleb offered a prize to the conqueror, promising to give his daughter Achsah for a wife to anyone who should take it. Othniel, his nephew, took the city and secured Achsah and a tract of land (15:13-19)."

Nothing else is known of Caleb's life and death. **One thing we do know is that he was unmovable in the face of strong opinion by others.**

Compromise was not a characteristic of his life. His moral character withstood the strongest winds of a very vocal majority that temporarily held sway over circumstances. Expressing any other opinion would have violated his character.

Definition: Character is the combination of natural and acquired features and traits that constitute a person's nature or fundamental disposition, from which specific moral responses issue.

Helen Keller (1880-1968) American blind and deaf writer/lecturer: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

Human beings judge one another by their external actions. God judges them by their moral choices. **C.S. Lewis** in *Mere Christianity*, p. 85

There are obvious lessons we can learn from his life (**Life Application Bible**).

- Majority opinion is not an accurate measurement of right and wrong.
- Words and actions bring courage and faith to life.
- Boldness is appropriate when God's redemptive purposes are at stake.

What else can we learn from Caleb's life?

1. You are never too old to make a difference.

Moses began his earthly ministry at 80. Caleb took a stronghold at age 85. Billy Graham preached to the multitudes in his 80s. Seasoned workers are sought after by companies looking for maturity and experience. Wisdom is often the byproduct of a life lived in the crucible. Young men long for mature men to invest in their lives.

Young men come to me all the time for counsel because they want their idealism tempered by reason, experience, and godly advice. You have much to offer younger men who long to be mentored by older wiser men. My book, published in 2010, was

almost twenty years in incubation. I received an award called 'Rising Star.' I said to my wife at the time, here I am at 62 years of age and I'm a rising star? Go figure.

Maturity has more to do with one's journey than it has to do with age.

There are men 'younger' than you in the faith that desperately need your guidance, encouragement, support, and counsel.

You may have heard me say in the past that we are commanded to pass on to others what we have learned. **2**

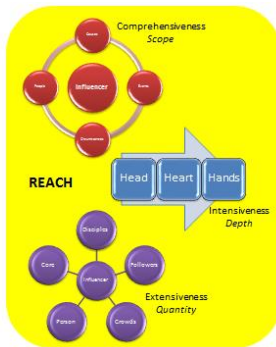
Timothy 2:2 *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*
NIV

Young potential leaders are all around you. Your antenna may not be tuned to their frequency. In fact, the static of their lives may be misinterpreted as a failure or nuisance. I have found several telltale characteristics of budding leaders. They are...

- **Insistent** - They never give up.
- **Inquisitive** - They are full of questions.
- **Impatient** - They seek more responsibility before they may be ready.
- **Incognito** - They are often unnamed leaders in hiding.
- **Innovators** - They often go beyond what is asked of them.

As you grow in the Lord, God gives you more influence directly, indirectly, and organizationally. Also, the more you become like Christ, the more you reflect His character, the more deeply, wide-ranging, and far-reaching your influence will go.

Influence



2. God and you are the 'majority, not the minority.'

Whom do you serve? Where does your loyalty lie? To whose kingdom do you belong? Whose favor do you seek? To whom do you owe your allegiance? To whom do you owe your very existence?

It is to Him that all your efforts are directly—everyone else is a beneficiary of your acts of worship. When you live your life for an audience of One everything else is second priority. You and he are a majority in any circumstance.

2 Timothy 2:3-4 *Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer. NIV*

Ephesians 2:19-22 *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. NIV*

Philippians 3:20 *But our citizenship is in heaven. NIV*

Philippians 4:13 *I can do everything through him who gives me strength. NIV*

An amazing story is attributed to **John G. Paton, Pioneer Missionary in the New Hebrides Island, South Pacific**

Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Paton's out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came, they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?" The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I."

The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard—hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent His angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation.¹

3. Integrity and authenticity shape our destiny.

"Integrity binds our person together and fosters a spirit of contentment

within us. It will not allow our lips to violate our hearts. When integrity is the referee, we will be consistent; our beliefs will be mirrored by our conduct. There will be no discrepancy between what we appear to be and what our family knows we are, whether in times of prosperity or adversity. Integrity allows us to predetermine what we will be regardless of circumstances, persons involved, or the places of our testing." John Maxwell

Psalms 15:1-5 *Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill? He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from his heart and has no slander on his tongue, who does his neighbor no wrong and casts no slur on his fellowman, who despises a vile man but honors those who fear the Lord, who keeps his oath even when it hurts, who lends his money without overcharging and does not accept a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things will never be shaken. NIV*

An **authentic man** is one "who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and waits for God's rewards." **Robert Lewis**

An **authentic Christian**, a man after God's heart, a leader worth following, is one who conforms to the original, Jesus Christ, and reproduces those features which reflect His character. Such a person leaves little doubt to whom they belong because they bear the imprint of the Master. They carry in their person God's certificate of authenticity.

The questions that need to be asked are: "Do we bear the imprint of the Master? Does our life, our behavior,

¹ David Jeremiah. *Angels* (2010), Multnomah Books, pp. 22-23

reflect His character? Would He authorize a *certificate of authenticity* for us?"

For many of us, our lifestyle repeatedly violates what we say we are — “*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that we may declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.*” 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

A man of **integrity** is the same under pressure as he is when he is not under pressure. **Authenticity** is being authentically what one claims to be. You are a **man of integrity** when you don't collapse under a torrent of criticism but hold your position because it is right and true. You are a **man of authenticity** when your behavior is consistently in tune with your declared beliefs.

Hebrews 13:7-8 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. NIV

Is your life marked by integrity and authenticity? Are you the same man of God under stress and when things are going great? Would others say of you that you are a man of integrity and authenticity? Are you actually and exactly what you claim to be?

The world is looking for men, for leaders of integrity and authenticity. Nobody cares what you have to say until they observe how you live. If you live a life of godly integrity and authenticity people will eventually listen to what you have to say—even if they oppose you or disagree with you.

Men of integrity and authenticity are admired and respected by friend and foe alike. God honors men of integrity and authenticity.

Yes, you and God are a majority.

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you can take to become who God created you to be.

The Foundation (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

Go to our website for more details.
www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org.



Donations

Please consider giving to Heart of a Warrior Ministries. HOAW Ministries needs your financial support. Our ability to help men live God-honoring lives

depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on [heartofawarrior.org](http://www.heartofawarrior.org). Thank you for being a subscriber.

Check out **The Store** on our website (www.heartofawarrior.org). There are downloadable resources you can use to lead a group through Phases I, II, or III, Foundations of a Warrior, and Bible Study Guidelines.

Websites for Men

Heart of a Warrior Ministries
www.Heartofawarrior.org

Legacy Minded Men
www.legacymindedmen.org

Church for Men
<http://churchformen.com/>

Resolute
<https://beresolute.org/>

Life Way Men
<https://blog.lifeway.com/leadingmen/>

Men's Fraternity
<http://www.mensfraternity.com/>

Man in the Mirror
<http://maninthemirror.org/>

Men with No Regrets
<http://www.menwithnoregrets.org/>

National Collision of Men's Ministries
<http://ncmm.org/>

Every Man's Battle
<https://newlife.com/emb/>

Iron Sharpens Iron
<http://ironsharpensiron.net/>

Ransomed Heart Ministries
<http://www.ransomedheart.com/>

Band of Brothers
www.bandofbrothers.org/

Man Up God's Way
<http://www.manupgodsway.org/>

Iron Works
<http://www.ironworksmen.com/>