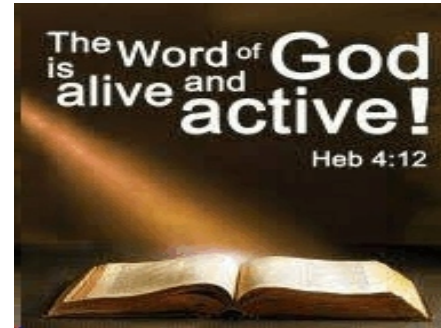


Sharing God's Word:

“And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me:.... And Joshua blessed him,” (Joshua:14:10-13).

Caleb is the outstanding Old Testament example of a man who wholly followed the Lord his God. It cost him everything, but such wholehearted following also paid him everything.



“The Lord hath kept me alive” (v.10). This was the testimony of Caleb. Unlike the rest of the camp, Caleb and Joshua were spared because they wholly followed the Lord. Moses died; so did the rest of that generation. ***“But with whom was He grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness”***(Heb. 3:17). Paul, in his reference to this same fact, states: ***“Now all these things happened unto them for en-samples: and they are written for our admonition”***(1Cor10:11). Death for the believer can never mean spiritual death, but it may and does mean spiritual barrenness, or physical death, as past and contemporary history will illustrate. Caleb was spared from such death, both spiritually and physically.

“I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me” (Joshua 14:11). At 85 years of age Caleb was strong enough for victorious warfare; indeed, in Chapter 15:1- 4 we read: ***“And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak.”*** Anak, whose name means “giant” or “long-necked,” was the son of Arba, whose name signifies “the strength of Baal.” Though the giants were great in size, Caleb was greater in spirit. He overcame them by the power of a surrendered life. The principle of true victory is just the same today, that the believer who overcomes can only do so in the strength of a yielded life.

“Joshua was blessed with Hebron, “And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron” (Josh 15:13). In these statements we have the true ingredients of a satisfied life. There was spiritual prosperity Joshua's inheritance. This inheritance had been his by promise for 45 years, but now he consciously possessed it. The Hebron of spiritual blessings in Christ is available only to the surrendered believer. Finally, there was spiritual blessing “and the land had rest from war.” We are not to infer from this that the Christian's war ceases while he is on earth. At the same time, however, the Word of God makes it clear that in answer to a full surrender the believer may know the rest of being more than conqueror.

“Yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (Rom. 6:13).

A Thoughtful Read:

“.....For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men

have committed much, of him they will ask the more” (Luke 12:48).

Every parent has had a conversation with a child similar to this: “Rickie, do you remember when we talked about crossing the street by yourself?” “Yes” “So when you crossed the street by yourself you knew you weren’t supposed to?” “Yes.” The conversation centers on two things: knowledge and accountability. What we know makes us accountable for our action.

Jesus had a similar conversation with a Jewish man who was interested in inheriting eternal life. He knew the Law said to love God and one’s neighbor, but he was not sure he wanted to love *ALL* his neighbors. So Jesus told him a story about a Samaritan who did love his neighbor unconditionally –and told the Jewish man he ought to imitate the Samaritan’s way of showing sacrificial love for others. Jesus point was this: Since you know the Law says to love your neighbor and “ *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbor, and not suffer sin upon him. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the LORD*”(Lev 19:17-18), you are responsible to do it. Our knowledge makes us accountable for what we know we should do but choose not to do.

Knowing the will of God is a weighty responsibility. We are accountable for everything before God, but especially for what we know. “ *And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that He will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if that servant say in his heart, My Lord delays his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looks not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more”(Luke 12:42-48).*

