

## Whole-Hearted Commitment Joshua 14

- *I have begun everything with the idea that I could succeed, and I never had much patience with the multitudes of people who are always ready to explain why one cannot succeed.*
  - Booker T. Washington (1856 – 1915)
- Like Booker T. Washington, the story of Caleb began when he was born into slavery.
- We begin to see Caleb's character in the Book of Numbers.
- Read Numbers 13:25 – 14:10.
  
- Fast forward 45 years.
- Read Joshua 13:1-7.
- Also Joshua 14:1-5.
  
- Get past the past. 14:6-8
- Set your heart on God's promises. 14:9
- Persevere in the present. 14:10-11
- Face the future with faith. 14:12-15

### Get past the past. 14:6-8

- Caleb's initial attitude of faith met with complete failure.
- It would have been easy at that point to give up.
- How would we respond under the same circumstances?
- Caleb decided to keep looking forward to victory.
  - *A great part of Christian duty, and a great secret of Christian progress, is to familiarize ourselves with the hope of complete victory. We should acquire the habit of contemplating as certainly meant by God to be ours, complete conformity to Christ's character, complete appropriation of Christ's gifts.*
    - Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)

### Set your heart on God's promises. 14:9

- Caleb held onto these words from Moses for the entire period of 45 years.
- While many younger than him died off, he kept looking ahead to a fulfilled vision.
- A character like Caleb's can be the effect of a promise from God firmly held in the heart.
  - *Make it personal. Sometimes the Spirit shows you while you are praying or reading or listening to others an attainment beyond all you have ever reached. It is your Hebron.*
    - Edward N. Packard (1841 – 1917)

### Persevere in the present. 14:10-11

- Abraham had to wait 25 years for the birth of Isaac.
- Caleb waited 45 years to obtain his inheritance, and then still had to fight for it!
  
- How long are we willing to persevere to receive all God has for us?
- How much are we willing to endure?
- Note: These are not at all rhetorical questions.

- See also:
  - Luke 9:57-62
  - Philippians 3:12-14

**Face the future with faith.** 14:12-15

- Let's not insult the Lord by giving him half-hearted, part-time or temporary commitment.
- Let's not disappoint him or those around us by giving up just when we might have been blessed with new strength.
- Let's give him whole-hearted commitment like Caleb's.
  - *Let me beg you, not to rest contented with the commonplace religion that is now so prevalent.*
    - *Adoniram Judson (1788 – 1850)*
- Adoniram Judson was an early missionary to Burma.
- He labored there for many years without the slightest indication of results.
- At one point the board that sent him wrote him a letter suggesting that perhaps he should come home.
- In his response, he said regarding the future,
  - *“The prospects are bright as the promises of God.”*
  - *Caleb, at eighty-five, wanted to go fight the giants. He had spent forty years wandering in the desert because the other spies were afraid of the giants. Now he couldn't wait to go take them on himself.*
    - *Chuck Smith (1826 – 1910)*

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  - *I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome.*
    - *Booker T. Washington (1856 – 1915)*
- Finally, these verses:
  - Revelation 2:7
  - Revelation 3:5
  - Revelation 3:12
  - Revelation 3:21
  - Romans 8:35-37