

YOU'RE NOT FINISHED YET

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Joshua 14:10-12 KJV

And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day...

Introduction

There is a lie straight from the pit of hell that has paralyzed too many of God's people. The enemy wants you to look at your calendar, look at your gray hair, look at your past mistakes, look at your trauma, and conclude that your best days are in the rearview mirror. He wants you to believe that because you've been through the wringer, because you've had to bury some dreams, and because life didn't pan out exactly how you drew it up in your twenties, that God has put you on the shelf. The devil is a liar. God does not check your expiration date before He decides to use you.

We are looking at a man named Caleb. Caleb is eighty-five years old. By all cultural standards, Caleb should be sitting in a rocking chair, collecting his wilderness pension, and telling the young folks about the good old days when the Red Sea parted. But Caleb is not built like that. Caleb is a survivor. He has a mind that refuses to be broken by time, trauma, or the toxic unbelief of the people he had to travel with. He steps up to Joshua, squares his shoulders, and makes a demand that ought to shake the gates of hell: "Give me this mountain."

He didn't ask for a valley. He didn't ask for a beachfront property. He asked for the hardest territory, occupied by the biggest giants, because he knew something about resilience. Resilience is not just surviving the storm;

resilience is having the audacity to demand what God promised you after the storm is over. If you are sitting here today thinking you are too old, too broken, too tired, or too scarred to make a difference, I came to preach this into your spirit: God can still use you. The assignment on your life did not die in the wilderness.

1. THE PAIN OF THE PROCESS

Scripture:

Joshua 14:10 KJV

And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness...

You cannot talk about Caleb's triumph without dealing with Caleb's trauma. For forty-five years, Caleb had to wander in a dry, barren wilderness. But here is the tragedy of his story: the wilderness wasn't even his fault. Caleb had the faith to go into the Promised Land four decades earlier, but he was held back by the unbelief, the complaining, and the negative mindsets of the people around him. Some of you know exactly what that feels like. You have lost years of your life dragging around people who had no vision, no faith, and no fight. You were ready to move forward, but you were tied to a generation that was determined to die in the desert. You had to watch people who did not have your drive dictate your distance.

That kind of waiting will mess with your mind. The psychological effect of watching everybody around you drop dead while you hold on to a promise is heavy. Caleb had to attend the funerals of everyone he started out with. He had to survive the emotional toll of isolation, frustration, and delay. Every day he woke up in the sand when he knew he was anointed for the soil of the Promised Land. It is a demonic attack on the mind when the enemy tries to use the failures of your associates to make you bitter about your own future. The devil wanted Caleb to look at the graveyard of the wilderness and assume his destiny was buried there too.

But Caleb refused to be triggered into unbelief. He managed his emotions in the middle of a mess. He understood that while he had to endure the process, the process was not his final destination. You have to get to a place

in your emotional healing where you can look at your past and say, I refuse to let someone else's unhealed trauma talk me out of my promised territory. You might have gone through a bitter divorce. You might have survived the block, the addiction, the betrayal of friends, and the deceitful kisses of your enemies. You may have the scars of being held hostage by somebody else's dysfunction. But the fact that you are still here means the process did not kill you. The Lord kept you alive for a reason. You didn't survive that wilderness just to die in it. You survived it so you could conquer something.

2. THE PRESERVATION OF THE PROMISE

Scripture:

Joshua 14:11 KJV

As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

Look at the resilience in this text. At eighty-five years old, Caleb looks at Joshua and says, "I am just as strong today as I was forty-five years ago." Now, I know folks want to spiritualize this and say God gave him supernatural muscles. But let's keep it real: the strength Caleb is talking about here starts in the mind. The body follows what the mind commands. Caleb maintained a mental stronghold of faith. While everyone else allowed the wilderness to wear out their minds, Caleb protected his passion. He didn't let the wait drain his fight. He didn't let the passing of time dilute the potency of the promise.

We have a major problem today with believers getting too comfortable in the waiting room. The danger of comfortability is that it makes you soft for the battle God has called you to fight. When things get hard, we want to retreat, complain, or self-sabotage. We start looking at the calendar and panicking. We let the culture dictate our value. The world will tell you that because you are a senior, because you are a single mother, because you are a man trying to rebuild your life after failure, that you don't have the strength for war anymore. Society tries to stamp an expiration date on your anointing just because you have some mileage on your soul.

But Caleb says, "I am still ready for war." He is talking about the ability to go

out and come in, to handle the business of the kingdom. Your strength is preserved when your mind is stayed on the promise. You have to tell the devil, I'm not letting a season of waiting trick me into a mindset of weakness. Stop letting the enemy rent space in your head telling you what you can't do. Shake off that shame. Stop looking at your chronological age and start looking at your spiritual authority. If God gave you the breath to wake up this morning, He gave you the strength to fight the battle in front of you.

3. THE PURSUIT OF THE PEAK

Scripture:

Joshua 14:12 KJV

Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced...

This is the climax of resilience. Caleb doesn't ask for the valley. He doesn't ask for a gated community where he can kick his feet up and coast into heaven. He points to Hebron, the mountain. And he knows exactly who is up there. The Anakims. The giants. The very same giants that made the rest of Israel cry like grasshoppers forty-five years earlier. Caleb says, "Give me the hardest fight. Give me the territory with the giants. Give me this mountain." He knew that the greatest victories are never found on the path of least resistance.

Why would an eighty-five-year-old man want to fight giants? Because he understood that his assignment was bigger than his age. He knew that if God was with him, the size of the giant did not matter. Some of you have been running from the mountain because you are intimidated by the giants. You are intimidated by the giant of debt, the giant of depression, the giant of family curses, the giant of a broken marriage. You have settled for the valley because the valley is safe. The valley doesn't require faith. The valley doesn't require a prayer life. The valley is where you go when you just want to survive.

But God did not call you to a safe, pretentious worship where we just clap our hands and never conquer any territory. It is time to square your shoulders and declare, I am not taking a discount on my destiny just to avoid

a fight. It is time for the men in the building, the fathers, the mothers, the warriors who have been sitting on the sidelines to stand up and say, "Give me this mountain!" I want my family back. I want my joy back. I want my peace of mind back. We cannot afford to be a generation that negotiates with giants. When you conquer your mountain, you break the cycle of fear, and you leave an inheritance for the generation coming up behind you.

4. THE POWER TO PUSH BACK

Scripture:

Joshua 14:12 KJV

...if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.

Caleb understood a fundamental rule of spiritual warfare that too many believers in the modern church have forgotten: God will give you the mountain, but you still have to evict the giants. Notice Caleb's theology here. He didn't say, "God, please make the giants pack their bags and leave before I get up there." He said, "If the Lord is with me, I shall be able to drive them out." God does not always deliver you from the fight; sometimes He gives you the power to step into the ring and win the fight. Resilience is not just about surviving what the enemy did to you; it is about getting your second wind, stepping back onto the battlefield, and pushing back against the very kingdom of darkness that tried to wipe you out.

For years, the enemy has been operating on squatter's rights in your life. He has set up camp in your mind. He has built strongholds in your family. He has taken up residence in your finances, your marriage, and your emotional stability. We have generations of people walking around paralyzed by trauma, depressed, and living under a heavy cloud, just tolerating the giants because they look too big to move. We have normalized dysfunction because we are too exhausted to fight the eviction process.

But when you get a revelation of your identity in Christ, you realize that the devil does not have a lease on your life. You have to draw a line in the spirit and say, I am not sharing my headspace with a devil that Jesus already defeated. You cannot fight this kind of battle with just good vibes and positive thinking. You cannot negotiate your way into victory. You need the

partnership of the Holy Ghost. Caleb anchored his entire offensive strategy on one phrase: "as the Lord said." When you are fighting self-sabotaging mindsets, when you are fighting the urge to quit, you have to open your mouth and push back with what the Lord said. You have the power to push back, take your territory, and reclaim your peace of mind.

Conclusion

God can still use you. I don't care if you are twenty-five or eighty-five. I don't care if you had to start over from scratch. The wilderness was just a classroom. The delay was just preparation. God kept you alive through the car wreck, through the sickness, through the mental breakdown, and through the attacks of the enemy because there is a mountain with your name on it.

Stop disqualifying yourself. Stop letting the enemy use your scars as an excuse to keep you out of the fight. Your scars are just proof that you survived the battle. It is time to transition from survival mode into conqueror mode. Lift up your hands right where you are. Repent of the wrong attitudes. Repent of the self-sabotaging mindsets. Tell the Lord, "I am still here. I am still ready. Give me this mountain, and use me for Your glory!"