



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Spirit of Caleb

Passage: Joshua 14:6-15

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: After years of struggle, conquest, and divine promise, the people of Israel stood on the threshold of a new beginning in the land of Canaan. With the eastern territory already allotted to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, the remaining land was distributed under the guidance of the high priest by casting lots—a method that left no room for human dispute, for the decision rested entirely in the hands of God. While disputes over inheritance are sadly common in many families, often causing deep divisions over relatively small matters, God's way brought peace and clarity. Yet, even after the lots were cast, each tribe bore the responsibility to fully claim and conquer what was given to them. Amid this historic moment, one man stands out—Caleb. His life reflects qualities that God honors and that we, too, are called to emulate. Tonight, we'll explore three of those qualities, seen clearly in Caleb's unwavering faith and character.

I. Faith Sees the Promise Beyond the Problems (Verses 6-9)

Ten of the spies had measured the giants against themselves; Caleb and Joshua measured the giants against God.

Amid growing pessimism, Caleb dared to disagree with the majority report. He had great boldness and confidence in the promises of God.



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“And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” (Numbers 13:30)

Faith doesn't ignore the obstacles—it believes God is bigger than the challenge.

II. Faithfulness Is Rewarded in God's Time (Verse 10a)

Caleb was 40 years old when God gave the promise and 85 when he saw it fulfilled. That's 45 years of faithfulness in the wilderness, surrounded by grumbling, defeat, and spiritual apathy.

When the time was right, God honored Caleb's consistent, behind-the-scenes faithfulness.

Most people want the reward without the wait, but in God's economy, waiting is not wasted time—it's a proving ground for faith.

Caleb didn't resent Joshua for being chosen to lead. He supported him, encouraged him, and waited for his own moment of fulfillment.

III. Wholehearted Faith Never Retires (Verses 10b-15)

In his old age, Caleb's passion for God hadn't dimmed. He still believed, still trusted, and still expected God to work through him.

God doesn't retire His people—He reassigns them. As long as we have breath, we have purpose.

God's greatest callings are not always front-loaded in life. Sometimes, they arrive after a lifetime of quiet preparation.

Conclusion: Caleb's life is a powerful reminder that God honors a heart that wholly follows Him—no matter the age, the season, or the obstacles in the way. He didn't coast into retirement or cling to past victories; he kept pressing forward, fueled by faith and focused on the future. His legacy wasn't just in what he received, but in how he lived—boldly, patiently, and wholeheartedly. So the question remains: Can you say, like Caleb,



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“I’m still ready for what God has next”? Whether you’re 25 or 85, the question isn’t how much strength you have—it’s how much of your heart God still has.



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