

Numbers 14:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Analysis

God commends Caleb for having 'another spirit' and 'followed me fully,' explaining why he alone (with Joshua) of his generation would enter the Promised Land. The phrase 'another spirit' (Hebrew 'ruach acheret', רוּחַ אַחֵרֶת) indicates a fundamentally different disposition than the rebellious majority—Caleb possessed a spirit of faith, courage, and obedience rather than unbelief, cowardice, and rebellion. The description 'hath followed me fully' (Hebrew 'male acharai', מָלֵא אַחֵרַי, literally 'filled after me') suggests complete, wholehearted devotion without reservation. Caleb didn't merely technically obey while harboring doubt; he trusted God completely. His reward—'him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it'—demonstrates that God honors wholehearted faith. Caleb was 40 at this time and would wait 45 years (Joshua 14:10) before finally receiving his inheritance at age 85, still vigorous and faithful. His life illustrates that persevering faith, maintained through decades of delay and disappointment, ultimately receives God's promises. Caleb's 'other spirit' marks genuine faith distinguished from nominal profession.

Historical Context

Caleb was from the tribe of Judah, son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite (Numbers 32:12; Joshua 14:6,14), indicating possible non-Israelite ancestry (the Kenizzites were associated with Edom). Despite potentially foreign background, Caleb demonstrated greater faithfulness than native Israelites, illustrating that spiritual

pedigree surpasses ethnic heritage. His minority report alongside Joshua ('Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it,' Numbers 13:30) contradicted the ten spies' fearful assessment. The majority's unbelief condemned them to wilderness death, but Caleb's faith earned him inheritance. During the wilderness wandering, Caleb endured forty years watching his generation die while maintaining faith that God's promise would be fulfilled. When Joshua distributed Canaan's inheritance, the 85-year-old Caleb requested Hebron—the very region where they had seen the terrifying Anakim giants 45 years earlier (Joshua 14:12). He conquered it successfully, demonstrating that the faith he maintained in youth remained vigorous in old age. His life models persevering faith through decades of delayed fulfillment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to have 'another spirit' than the world around us, and how is this cultivated?
2. How does Caleb's forty-five years of faithful waiting despite delayed promise encourage perseverance in faith?

Interlinear Text

וְעַבְדִּי	כָּל־ב	עַקֵּב	הַיְהוָה	רוּחַ	אֶת־כֵּת	עַמּוֹ
But my servant	Caleb	because	H1961	spirit	he had another	H5973
H5650	H3612	H6118		H7307	H312	
וַיַּמְלֵא	אֹתוֹ	בְּ	אֵל	הָאֶרֶץ	אֶשְׂרָא	
me fully	with him and hath followed	him will I bring	H413	into the land	H834	
H4390	H310	H935		H776		
בְּ	שָׁמָּה	וְזָרַע וְ	יִרְשָׁנָה:			
him will I bring	H8033	and his seed	shall possess			
H935		H2233	H3423			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 26:65 (Parallel theme): For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Acts 11:23 (Parallel theme): Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

Ephesians 6:6 (Parallel theme): Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Deuteronomy 1:36 (Parallel theme): Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.

Numbers 13:30 (Parallel theme): 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.

Colossians 3:23 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Psalms 119:145 (Parallel theme): I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

Psalms 119:80 (Parallel theme): Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

1 Chronicles 29:9 (Parallel theme): Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

1 Chronicles 29:18 (Parallel theme): O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

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