

The Man with a Different Spirit

Read Deuteronomy 1:22-32

22 Then all of you came to me and said, “Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to.” 23 The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe. 24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshkol and explored it. 25 They brought some of the fruit of the land down to us and reported, “It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us.” 26 But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God. 27 You grumbled in your tents and said, “The Lord hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. 28 Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, ‘The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are fortified with walls up to the sky. We even saw the giants there.’” 29 Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. 30 The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, 31 and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you all the way you went until you reached this place.” 32 In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God.

Read Numbers 14:20-24

20 The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, 22 not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Additional Support: [Psalm 51:10-12](#); [Psalm 40:6-8](#); [Hebrews 10:5-8, 16-17](#); [Psalm 1:2, 51:16-17](#); [Deuteronomy 1:25-27](#); [Jeremiah 29:11](#); [Romans 8:28](#); [Numbers 13:17-33](#); [Numbers 14:1-2, 7-9](#); [Numbers 14:20-24](#); [Joshua 14:7-9](#)

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; our law is within my heart” (Psalm 40:6-8).

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’” (Hebrews 10:5-7).

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? What is the message of Caleb and the children of Israel entering the promised land?
2. What was God's intention for Israel regarding the promised the land? Why did they spy it out? Was it a good land or not? Why did the people not want to go up?
3. How was Caleb different? What does it mean that he had a different spirit? What does it mean to follow God wholeheartedly? What are some reasons we don't?
4. How do you view God's will? How is willingness connected with doing God's will? Why do many think God's will is hard and difficult rather than delightful?
5. What can we learn from this lesson? What are a few takeaways? How does it apply to you? What difference will this make in your daily walk with Christ?

For later: Please take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson relates to you. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How will this help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

Summary: God instructs Moses to send twelve spies to explore Canaan, the Promised Land. The spies return after 40 days, reporting that the land is good but inhabited by powerful people with fortified cities. Caleb and Joshua urge the Israelites to trust God and take possession of the land, but the other spies spread fear, leading the people to doubt and rebel against God (Numbers 13). The Israelites' rebellion escalates as they refuse to enter Canaan and even consider returning to Egypt. God decrees that this generation will wander in the wilderness for 40 years and die there, while their children will inherit the land (Numbers 14).

In Deuteronomy chapter 1, Moses recounts the events of Numbers 13-14, emphasizing the Israelites' lack of faith. He reminds them that despite God's promises and miraculous deeds, they doubted His ability to deliver them. Moses highlights their failure to trust God, which led to their prolonged wandering in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 1:22-32).

In contrast to the Israelites' fear and grumbling, Caleb is described as having a "different spirit," which sets him apart from the others. While the rest of the spies, except Joshua, and all the people doubted God's promise and were overcome by fear, Caleb trusted in God's power to deliver the Promised Land into their hands, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges, such as the presence of giants and fortified cities.

This "different spirit" refers to Caleb's wholehearted devotion to God and his willingness to follow Him fully. Because of this, God promised that Caleb and his descendants would inherit the land he explored. Caleb's faith and willing spirit serve as an inspiring example of trust in God and His promises.

Pray this prayer every day: "Lord, give me a willing spirit!" "Not my will but yours be done." "What do you want me to do?" "Here am I, send me!" "I delight to do your will."