

Greater Works Christian Church

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God Uses Those with a “Different Spirit”

Many Christians wonder how they can grow in their gifts and be used of God. It is sad but many want the easy way to “Glory” not realizing that the glory they seek often comes after many trials and tribulation.

Revelation 21:7

He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Those who overcome will inherit all things. To be an overcomer means some trials and tribulation have come your way and you overcame them. This means you will face a few things

Question: What does it mean to be an Overcomer?

Caleb- The Man with a “Different Spirit”

Numbers 14:20-25

20 Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word;
21 but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord—
22 because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice,
23 they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.
24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.
25 Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.”

What was the thing that was different about Caleb? Caleb did two things that separated him from the crowd. First, he followed God with everything within himself. Second, he saw the promise that God had given the Israelites and did not let his immediate surroundings or circumstances hinder him from obtaining the promise of God.

“Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully”

- **because**= (ay-keb) wages, compensation, reward, the end result of labor.
- **he has a**= (haw-yaw) to exist, to be
- **different**= (akh-air) another, as in following (second follows the first); next

- **spirit**= (roo-akh) Spirit, breath

Also, akin to **raw-vakh** (revive, to have ample room, to be refreshed), **reh-vakh** (room, deliverance, enlargement)

- **followed**= (an-ab-o-ah-o) after that, what is behind (as in, behind the desert)
- **fully**= (maw-lay) to fill, fulfill, accomplish

This “different spirit” of Caleb’s was a result of his labors in following after God. When others were complaining and desiring to return to Egypt, Caleb pressed on into the plans and purposes of God. Caleb did not give up even when he saw the giants in the land and realized the warfare that they were to face. Caleb stayed true to the promise of God and kept the word of the Lord before him at all times. When others were falling dead in the wilderness because of their murmuring and complaining, Caleb was sustained and obtained his inheritance because he never gave up, nor gave in.

The word “fully” would suggest to me that God had observed Caleb’s life and service for a time. Caleb kept as close to God as possible, “accomplishing” a task that others would not. During this time Caleb was just “behind” God in all that He did. This made an impression upon God, causing Him to bless Caleb with another spirit. This supernatural strength and ability was the compensation for Caleb’s perseverance in following after God. ***Caleb followed after God, so God followed after Caleb.***

Question: Why was Caleb allowed to enter the Promised Land? What set him apart?

God goes on to say this about Caleb:

Numbers 14:24

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

Caleb (3612) *kaleb*

Dog - literally (this man was called a “dog” by his father)

***Keleb* (3611) spelled the same as *Kaleb*, in Hebrew**

- 1) dog
 - 1a) dog (literal)
 - 1b) contempt or abasement (figuratively)
 - 1c) of pagan sacrifice
 - 1d) of male cult prostitute (figuratively)

In the Hebrew culture at this time, when a name was given to a child it was often a description of what was taking place at the time, or a prophetic statement of the person and what the person is to become.

It makes me wonder about the condition of his father's heart, that he would give his son such an abhorrent name. What was his father engaged in that he thought this was an acceptable name for his son?

God says something different about Caleb

Numbers 14:24

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

1. *The Lord calls Caleb, "My servant Caleb" Caleb had found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*
2. *The Lord said, "he has a different spirit in him" (below)*
3. *The Lord also said, "Caleb... has followed Me fully" (below)*

On account of all of this, Caleb would be allowed to enter the Promised Land and his descendants would have an inheritance in the land.

Caleb set himself apart by overcoming the stigma of his name. He proved he was not bound to his past, the mistakes of his past, the abuses of his past, nor the shame of his family.

It is interesting to note that Caleb's father, Jephunneh, is called a Kennezeite. Kennizites were from the land of Canaan (Gen 15:19). These Kennezeites would not have been directly related to Abraham; in other words, they would not have been natural Hebrews.

Later, Caleb is said to be part of the Tribe of Judah. If in deed he was of the Kennizite clan of Canaan, his family would have been accepted in the Tribe of Israel. Also, if his family was from Canaan, it would give us a better understanding of why he was named Caleb (dog) and after such practices as "pagan sacrifice and male cult prostitution".

Very Important: *No matter what the conditions were of Caleb's family and past, we do know that he was a slave in Egypt just a short time before this story. The name Caleb could have easily come from what was taking place in Egypt or from Canaan. In both scenarios, Caleb overcame the wickedness and shame of where he came from.*

Either way, Caleb Overcame his own Name!

Question: Caleb overcame some big obstacles in his life. God said Caleb had a different spirit in him. What was different about Caleb, and why was this important to God?

Question: What obstacles have you overcome in your life? What obstacles are you facing now?

Further Study

Zacchaeus- The “Tree Climber”

Luke 19:1-10

1 Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho.

2 Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see who *Jesus* was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way*.

5 And when *Jesus* came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”

6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

7 But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

9 And *Jesus* said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Note: *What made Zacchaeus different from the crowd? It was simply the fact that he refused to be a part of the crowd.* Instead of trying to press into the place that *Jesus* was, he looked to find out where *Jesus* was going. He then positioned himself in the place that *Jesus* was about to be. He like Caleb looked down the road to where God was going and did everything to be where God was going. This was the thing that separated both of these men from the crowd of curious onlookers and murmuring multitudes.

The Disciples- Following Him Who is the Word of Life

John 6:52-69

52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?”

53 Then *Jesus* said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.

58 This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna,

and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.”

59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.

60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard *this*, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?”

61 When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you?

62 *What* then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

64 But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

66 From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Note: Who are we to God? Are we part of the crowd of curious onlookers, publicity hounds, or hype seekers, seeking to be known as “the crowd that runs with Jesus”? If it is merely for publicity, hype or to satisfy our curiosity, we must know then simply being a part of that crowd is our reward.

But, if we are not concerned with the crowds that are thronging around Jesus, and our concern is to see Him and Him alone, then we will be as Zacchaeus and the twelve. Nothing will keep us from getting the attention of our Lord. We will climb the highest tree, and wade through the toughest of sayings before we lose hope. People that have fought through and obtained a different spirit will not just walk away when the going gets tough. Instead they will press in and obtain the promises of God. Curious onlookers, publicity hounds and hype seekers will fall away at one hard saying, but those of a different spirit will wait 40 years for the dead to die in order to inherit the promise of God.

Those with a different spirit will:

1. Not have to run from church to church, meeting after meeting seeking a word, or an anointing. Instead they will press in and get one for themselves.

2. Not thwart the will of God by running simply because the going gets tough or dry at times. Instead they will stick around long enough to make a difference and see the plans and purposes of God accomplished.

3. Not hide from or be in fear of the enemy and the battle. Instead they will cry out with a loud voice, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

4. Not desire to be a part of the crowd. Instead they will want to run on ahead of the crowd and get God's attention by being prepared for His arrival.

5. Be willing to lose everything else before they lose their position and calling before God. Serving God and having His approval rules their life, not the approval of man (or wife).

6. These are always found in the right place at the right time; knowing that where Jesus "is" may not be as important as where He is about to be.