

# **“HOLY and WHOLLY”**

## **or “GIANTS ARE NOT SO BIG!”**

**TEXT: Joshua 14:5-14**

**THESIS:** To show that God is faithful and will reward faith.

**INTRO: A.** “There were giants in the earth in those days, and after that...” Gen.6 Some of these alien creatures were still around in Joshua’s day (and a few, including Goliath) were around many decades later in David’s day. (Some say they may still be here: “Big Foot,” “the Abominable Snow Men,” etc.) These biblical giants were between 9 and 11 or 12 feet tall.

**B.** I believe that every believer encounters “giants” in his or her life, that, just like those in our text in Caleb’s day, need to be conquered. Perhaps your “giant” is as small as a cigarette, or as large as a drug habit, or as obnoxious as pornography. Perhaps they take the form of real enemies who oppose you and what you stand for as a Christian, e.g., an unsaved husband, wife, employee or employer, a family member or ? How do you handle these “giants”? Do you try to overcome them in your own human strength, or do you trust the Lord for victory? How do you walk? By faith? By sight? This message is about vision and victory over giants and the man who is our example is Caleb the son of Jephunneh...

### **I. CALEB’S ACUITY (VISION): v.12a “Give me this mountain...”**

**ILLUS:** 40 long years before Moses had promised Caleb “...to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon...because he hath wholly followed the Lord.” Deut.1:36 Caleb was both “HOLY and WHOLLY” dedicated to the Lord. At least 4 times God’s Word declares that Caleb “wholly followed the Lord...” All through the 40 years in the wilderness Caleb had his mind and heart set on God’s promises to him concerning the land. Now he was about to see with his eyes that which he had seen with his faith. It was...

#### **A. A Time For Action:**

1. Caleb claims the promise... “Now...” v.12

**ILLUS:** Men of vision always move out armed with God’s promises. The Lord had PROMISED Caleb the land...now he claims what belonged to him. God has promised to bless the proclamation of His Word, we need to claim His promise.

2. Caleb names the promise: “this mountain...whereof the Lord spake...” v.12

**ILLUS:** We need to be sure of what God has said (another reason we had better have the right Bible) and be certain that we don’t invent a promise to claim. Caleb was simply claiming what God had promised thru Moses 40 years earlier. Wholly following the Lord for these long years of wilderness wandering, attending the funerals of the 10 spies who brought the negative report about the land and it’s giants, as well as the funerals of that entire generation meant that Caleb had to truly trust that what God had said, He would do!

#### **B. A Plan For Action: (goals)**

1. An immediate goal: “THIS mountain...”

**ILLUS:** We must pray specifically if we expect God to answer specifically! Caleb waited a long time for God to place him where the prayer and promised could come to pass, but NOW the time had come.

2. An impossible goal: “this MOUNTAIN...”

**ILLUS:** The area he was claiming was Hebron, where Abraham had met with God and where Abraham and his family were entombed. The word “Hebron” means “fellowship” and was probably named after Abraham’s communion with the Lord in that place. It was heavily fortified and it is where the Anakim lived.

3. An inspiring goal: “if so be the Lord be with me...”

- a. This was no prideful boast on Caleb’s part, though he has stated that he still retained the vigor of his youth, and though he had had vast military experience.
- b. He was simply trusting in the Lord and His promise.
- c. This was not either the language of self-doubting, but of self-renunciation and faith.

4. An invincible goal: “Anakims...”

**ILLUS:** Nelson’s Bible Dictionary says that this was a tribe of formidable and fierce giants so large in stature that the Israelite spies came back with the report that they were as “grasshoppers in their sight.” No doubt your giants look just as invincible! But God is greater than any giant! “GIANTS ARE NOT SO BIG” after all, when measured by God’s greatness!

## **II. CALEB’S ACTIVITY: (SERVICE) v.12b “...I shall drive them out...”**

### **A. He Distrusted Self: “IF so be the Lord be with me...”**

**ILLUS:** IS a man courageous if he goes to battle with armor and arms? YES. Is a man foolish to face his enemy with out arms and armor? YES. But any man is foolish if he goes to battle only trusting in his own strength, wisdom and weapons. Caleb was aware of his own impotence apart from the Lord. Our victory is in trusting in the Lord - not in self, talents, strength, or resolve.

The nuclear Polaris class submarine fleet overcame “immense technical problems (marrying) nuclear power ...to nuclear missiles...(but those problems have) been mastered (though) important human problems on the vessels remain.” Man is called “the weakest chink in the Polaris’ armor.” So it is with every believer. We are our own worst enemy.

### **B. He Distrusted Others:**

**ILLUS:** It was because of others he spent 45 years in the wilderness. Christ often rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. Some of the most “spiritual” men refuse to walk by faith and simply trust the Lord for what He has promised. They run to their friends instead of the Lord. They seek others counsel instead of the Word. They believe someone knows more that God.

### **C. He Trusted The Lord:**

1. Caleb remembered that his old companions were occupied with their own impotence and their enemies strength.
2. Caleb was occupied with the Omnipotence of God and His sure Word.

## **III. CALEB’S ATTITUDE: (DEDICATION) v.14 b “He wholly followed the Lord...”**

**A. Complete Dedication: “wholly...”**

1. He was completely yielded to God’s will and God’s Word.
2. He didn’t reserve any part of his life for self.

**B. Constant Dedication: “followed...”**

1. Not running ahead of God, but following Him.
2. Here is the secret of consistency.

**C. Careful Dedication: “the Lord...”**

1. He didn’t follow others (though loyal to Joshua).
2. He had spiritual discernment to know the difference between the giants who were his enemies and the Giant Who was the Lord!

**ILLUS:** What a fantastic testimony! Caleb “wholly followed the Lord...” Caleb accepted the challenge of driving out the giants from the land. The next chapter tells us: “And Caleb drove thence the 3 sons of Anak.” Of course he did! God rewards such dedication and trust! He will do the same for you.

**CONCL:** What are YOUR giants? I am here to remind you that if you are “HOLY and WHOLLY” dedicated to the Lord, the “GIANTS ARE NOT SO BIG!” You too can have the victory!