SEEING GOD IN LIFE'S BATTLES Message 11 May 9-10, 2009

Living Adventuresome Faith

Joshua 14:6-13

Adventuresome faith will take you where God wants you to go, and Caleb's example helps believers see **the elements of adventuresome faith**.

• Element #1: THE **DEVOTION** OF ADVENTURESOME FAITH

Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ⁷I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, ⁸ but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. Joshua 14:6-8 (New International Version)

See Numbers 13-14.

"Followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly" =

"I remained totally loyal to Yahweh"

At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the LORD stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. 2 Timothy 4:16-17 (NIV)

• Element #2: THE **ANCHOR** OF ADVENTURESOME FAITH

"You know what the LORD said to Moses . . . " Joshua 14:6b

"Now then, just as the LORD promised . . . " Joshua 14:10a

"... since the time he (God) said this to Moses ..." Joshua 14:10b

"Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. Joshua 14: 12a

Faith has an anchor – It is the Word of God.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. Psalm 130:5 (NIV)

• Element #3: THE <u>PERSPECTIVE</u> OF ADVENTURESOME FAITH

"Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then." Joshua 14:10-11 (NIV)

Biblical faith remembers with gratitude what God has done.

But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, ¹⁹to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. Psalm 33:18, 19 (NIV)

• Element #4: THE **ENERGY** OF ADVENTURESOME FAITH

"Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken." ¹³So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance.

Joshua 14:12-13 (New American Standard Bible)

Two Facts Helped Energize Caleb's Faith

- The extreme difficulty of the task
- The prospect of <u>God's favor</u>