

# **Stay Focused on God's Promises**

(Numbers 13 & 14)

***What does staying focused on God's promises mean?***

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## **Believing God's Promises** (Numbers 13:27-33)

["The land" refers to the land God had promised to Abraham, see Genesis 12:1, 2]

1. Describe the pessimistic nature of the scout's report. What were the effects of the report on the people of Israel?

(Numbers 13:30, 14:6-9)

2. How does the report of Caleb and Joshua compare to the others?
3. Based on the spies' reports (26-33), do you consider their fears as valid? Which report might you most likely hear and respond to? Why?
4. With their history of victories (quickly scan through Exodus 7-15) why and how do you think Israel should be able to "overcome the giants"? Why does God so often repeat in the OT, "remember what God has done" and how might that apply for us today?

## **Holding on to God's Promises** (Num. 14:24; Joshua 14:6-10)

1. How long did Caleb have to "hold on to God's promise"? What do you think it means that Caleb followed God "wholeheartedly"?
2. Why do we often want or expect God's promises to be fulfilled on our timetable?
3. How does faith help us handle situations that might otherwise create panic in our lives? How can you maintain an optimistic attitude when God says "wait"?

## **Acting on God's Promises** (Joshua 14:11-12)

1. Describe some characteristics of an optimistic person. Which of these characteristics do you see in Caleb?
2. How did his obedience affect his social life, what risks did he take (see Num. 14:10)? Our spiritual lives are strengthened by years of serving and trusting God. Who are

some Caleb's of today that you might know?

4. If you could pick a quality of Caleb's life for yourself, which one would it be?

**Enjoying the Fulfillment of God's Promises** (Joshua 14:13-14)

1. How did God bless Caleb's faith?
  
2. God's purposes are to develop us spiritually and to glorify Himself. How did God glorify Himself through this experience?
  
3. What blessings have come to you because of obedience to God's will? To our church?

Here are several benefits/blessings gained by following God's promises:

(This week, take time to look them up and be encouraged!)

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|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| • Help in times of trouble    | Exodus 23:22    | • Wisdom            | Matthew 7:24   |
| • God's love and faithfulness | Deuteronomy 7:9 | • Eternal life      | John 6:47      |
| • God's joy and guidance      | Psalm 19:8      | • God's Spirit      | Acts 5:32      |
| • Rest                        | Jeremiah 6:16   | • Answers to prayer | 1 John 3:21-22 |

**Care and Prayer:** How can we help one another through prayer today?

Are there some "GIANTS" roaming your neighborhood of life?

Is there a quality of Caleb's life you would want for yourself?

Practically, what would it mean for you to serve God "wholeheartedly" in the coming week/year?

**LIFE Groups**

*Providing an environment to nurture caring relationships and spiritual growth.*

- L** ♦ Learn..... applying Biblical truth for everyday living
- I** ♦ Invite.....welcoming others to our fellowship
- F** ♦ Fellowship.....nurturing Christ centered caring relationships
- E** ♦ Evangelism..... combining evangelism, teaching and nurturing to impact our world for Christ