

## **3/22/20 WORSHIP GUIDE: “FORWARD TOGETHER: RETIREMENT?” - JOSHUA 14-15**

**INTRODUCTION:** Some people are up on the pedestal for all the right reasons: “The Unique Person.”

- A musician, professor, athlete, businesswoman, lover, even in politics.
- Grandma, the kindly neighbor, an insightful mentor.
- A few people of God in the Bible about which nothing negative is ever said.
- There may be no one like that in the Bible quite like Caleb.  
He was a man with “a different spirit” who served God “wholeheartedly.”  
“Wholehearted” means “to fill one’s heart and walk behind.”

We admire these Unique People: then envy them: then dismiss them! But, is this the right response? Because deep down, we do want to know and live for God wholeheartedly.

*“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ...Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me.” (Psalm 42:1-2, 7-8)*

**- How important is it now to have a bedrock heart connection to the God who is on the throne above and behind it all? Our adversity is driving us to our knees to seek it.**

**- How much does the world need people wholehearted for God to give hope and help in Jesus’ name?**

**- Where does that “different spirit” / “wholeheartedness” come from? (Read Joshua 14:6-15)**

**#1. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS OBEDIENT TO GOD. (v. 7)**

**#2. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS CONFIDENT IN GOD. (v. 8)**

**#3. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS PROMISED AN INHERITANCE BY GOD. (v. 9)**

*“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.” (Numbers 14:24)*

**#4. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS PATIENT WITH GOD. (v. 10)**

**#5. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS ENERGETIC FOR GOD. (v. 11)**

**#6. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS DEPENDENT ON GOD. (v. 12)**

*“Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, **the Lord helping me**, I will drive them out just as he said.” (v.12)*

- Not surprisingly, in the very next chapter we read... (Read 15:13-15)

#### A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS...

#1. Obedient to God

#2. Confident in God

#3. Promised an inheritance by God

#4. Patient with God

#5. Energetic for God

#6. Dependent on God

Summary:

(1) The wholehearted person is "COUNTED IN by God." (1<sup>st</sup> three)

(2) The wholehearted person is "COUNTED ON by God." (2<sup>nd</sup> three)

Easy to remember. Not easy, but **NOT** impossible to do.

**APPLICATION: "How can I at least move more towards a wholehearted-for-God living?"**

#### WE CAN BE WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED TO GOD IF WE ARE COUNTED IN.

- **This is highly personal.** Do you know you belong to God?

Have you repented and believed in Christ Jesus our Savior? He loves you and owns you.

- **Consider what this means.**

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."* (Missionary Martyr, Jim Eliot)

What is it I cannot keep and cannot lose?

*"From now on let no one cause trouble for me, for I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus."* (The Apostle Paul, Galatians 6:17, NASB)

Counted in as a follower of Christ, you're branded: body, soul, and life!

#### WE CAN BE WHOLEHEARTEDLY DEVOTED TO GOD IF WE ARE COUNTED ON.

- **Are you patient with God?**

- **Are you energetic for God?** Do you know and live the mystery tension of...?

*"Therefore, my dear friends...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."* (Philippians 2:12-13)

- **Are you dependent on God?**

"The Lord helping me, I can \_\_\_\_\_!"

There is one final characteristic in the record of wholehearted Caleb (Joshua 15:16-19)

#### #7. A WHOLEHEARTED PERSON IS ENABLING THE NEXT GENERATION TO FOLLOW AFTER GOD.

- His wholehearted spirit rubs off on others: like his daughter and son-in-law.

#### CONCLUSION: WE CAN LIVE WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR GOD BY BEING COUNTED IN AND COUNTED ON.

Will you be **COUNTED IN AND COUNTED ON?**

- The world needs a few Unique Persons in these days for the challenges of this COVID-19 crisis.

- The Lord needs a few men and women of God these days for the Gospel and the church.

- The Lord will call few of us to be Joshuas. **BUT ALL OF US CAN BE CALEBS!**

**The Lord helping us, we can do this!** (And I do mean helping "us" and "we" moving "Forward Together.")

*"Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* (Acts 20:32)