

Waiting on The Lord

Waiting is one of the most difficult things that most humans can do.

In the past few weeks we have studied:

1. Hope. We studied that hope is the vision or the promise that God plants in our hearts while we are in His presence. We used the Scripture in Hebrews showing that hope comes from the Holy of Holies, and is anchored there.

Hebrews 6:19,

“19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil.”

The writer of Hebrews was using the Holy of Holies to relate to our present experience of intimacy with God in His presence.

2. The Holy of Holies. We studied our responsibilities for connecting with God in the “Holy of Holies,” New Testament style. This boils down to maintaining intimacy with God.

3. Now we need to focus on waiting on God. Once we have connected with God in His presence, and we feel He has written His hope onto our hearts, most of the time there is a long season of waiting for that hope, or for that promise to come to pass.

If we are walking through this process in our lives, be sure to know that God is working some eternal purposes through you. **This is serious. This is pleasing God!**

We can become very discouraged while waiting. Many believers give up too soon. Here is why. Our “flesh life” promotes our thinking process of: “Why wait, that was just my imagination, that was not God giving me hope.” We search for some form of happiness, but the flesh will never make us happy. Many turn to fantasy. Trying to satisfy our old flesh nature will never work.

Our ways are not His ways. Fruit only comes after the death of the seed, and the “death of our old nature.” Then resurrection comes.

The only way to make it is to focus on Jesus, His Word, His Cross, and your cross. You will receive Joy. Happy only comes from happenings, Joy comes from Jesus. Grace will take over. When you are weak then He is strong.

God gives us the resources to wait.

Galatians 5:22.

“22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, --” Matthew 25 tells us to take enough oil with us while we wait. Oil is the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes God asks us to voluntarily wait.

Psalms 27:13-14,

“13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. 14 Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!”

Often God imposes His waiting on us.

Very often God will make circumstances in our lives to prevail for a period of waiting until He sees that His will for you and for His Kingdom are ready to be released.

Habakkuk 2:3,

“3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.”

Caleb was greatly rewarded for waiting for a very long time.

Caleb was the only one besides Joshua that made it into the Promise Land all the way from Egypt. He was 85 years old and had waited 45 years for this promise to conquer the high place called Hebron. Remember Joshua and Caleb were the only two people that were totally dedicated to the Lord, besides Moses.

Numbers 32:12,

“except Caleb the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the LORD.”

God told Israel to spy the Promised Land many years before they actually entered it. There is where Caleb saw the hope, the vision, the promise, on conquering Hebron and Anak, 45 years before the actual battle.

Two major points to make here.

1. The conquering of the Anakims was a major issue to the future establishment of Israel. *The name “Anakim” most likely means “long-necked,” i.e., “tall.” The Hebrews thought them to be descendants of the Nephilim, a powerful race who dominated the pre-Flood world. (GotQuestions.org)*

2. Because Caleb was wholly following the Lord God could trust him to keep the hope, the vision, no matter how long the wait! This was like Abraham, Joseph and others who God could trust with highly important issues, which normally take a long wait.

Are you in such a place now? If not, will you volunteer? It takes a living sacrifice like Romans 12:1-2!

How the vision came to Caleb. Called to spy before entering the Promise Land.

Numbers 13:1, 2,

“1 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them.””

Numbers 13:27-33,

“27 Then they told him, and said: “We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this *is* its fruit.

28 “Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land *are* strong; the cities *are* fortified *and* very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. [*They also saw Hebron verse 22*].

29 “The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.”

30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they *are* stronger than we.”

32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature.

33 “There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.””

Numbers 14:6-10,

“6 But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes;

7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: “The land we passed through to spy out *is* an exceedingly good land.”

“8 “If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’

9 “Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

10 And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. **Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.”**

Numbers 14:23-32,

“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.””

“26 And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

27 “How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

28 “Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:

29 ‘The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

30 ‘Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.

31 ‘But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.

32 ‘But *as for* you, your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.’”

The battle after they entered the Promise Land.

Joshua 14:6-15.

“6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: “You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea.

7 “I *was* forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as *it was* in my heart.

8 “Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 “So Moses swore on that day, saying, ‘Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children’s forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.’

10 “And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.

11 “As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in.

12 “Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the LORD *will be* with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said.”

13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.

15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba (*Arba was* the greatest man among the Anakim). Then the land had rest from war.”

It was quite a battle

Joshua 15:14-19,

“14 Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

15 Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of Debir (formerly the name of Debir *was* Kirjath Sepher).

16 And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kirjath Sepher and takes it, to him I will give Achsah my daughter as wife."

17 So Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it; and he gave him Achsah his daughter as wife.

18 Now it was so, when she came *to him*, that she persuaded him to ask her father for a field. So she dismounted from *her* donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you wish?"

19 She answered, "Give me a blessing; since you have given me land in the South, give me also springs of water." So he gave her the upper springs and the lower springs."

Watchman Nee - A Table in The Wilderness

"We are well able to overcome" is the declaration of the man or woman whose confidence in the Lord is unqualified. He believes God's promises are trustworthy, and that because he is with his people, victory over every foe is assured. Do you believe this?

Many do, but with a faith that vacillates. They sing their song of praise, and the words are right, but there is something hesitant about the fund. With Caleb it was otherwise. He sang the right words firmly, to the right tune. Listen to their brave ringing tones:

Caleb and Hebron

"Let us go up at once and possess it;

For we are well able to overcome."

He had no doubts whatever about his God. But note too the urgency of that first clause." Let us go up at once!" True faith brooks no delay. One who reckons God faithful to his word declares this not merely by doing his will, but by doing it instantly.

Personal.

Many years ago my family was facing impossible financial circumstances, among other challenges. The Lord spoke to me this story of Caleb going for the heights, Hebron.

Hebron – the high place - infers the closest association with God. Caleb was now 85 years old, having spent at least 40 years in the wilderness, and only one of two men who went the distance with God. He perhaps should have taken rest after that long journey and enjoyed the Promise Land. But no! Caleb wanted the heights. You should read the full story. On the way up to Hebron were the Anakims, giants for sure. Their name infers "strangulation of supplies." In Joshua 15:17 Othniel shows up. His name means "force of God."

My family's supplies were for sure strangled for a season, but we took the spirit of Caleb and went for the heights of communion with God. He overcame for us and gave us "Hebron." The Anakims were defeated in our lives, at least for that particular season. But we are still relating to Caleb and his life for other issues, some of which have been promised for many years.

Isaiah 40:28-31,

“28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”



Notice the huge grapes they brought back while spying.