

A Different Spirit

Do you ever wonder what God thinks of you? Yeah I know He loves me...but what does He think of me? You have a reputation in heaven.

When satan came before God looking for someone to test, God asked him if he'd considered God's servant Job. Job had a reputation in heaven. If I'm being honest, I hope God doesn't have THAT much confidence in me...I'd like to settle in somewhere short of suffering.

But like you have a reputation on earth...it seems that you also have one in heaven.

The one on earth from man's perspective which is usually based on past experiences and your actions.

But the one in heaven is moreso based on your spirit and your faithfulness and obedience to God.

There's a man names Caleb and God tells us his reputation in heaven:

Numbers 14:24 (NKJV)

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.

Caleb has a different spirit.

Do you remember the song "one of these is not like the others" from Sesame Street? They showed 4 things and one was different, and you had to pick it out by the end of the song.

The one I remember had 4 shoes and they were all red and white. They were similar...but something has to be different about one of them. All shoes, all the same colors, but 3 were little baby shoes and one was a kids rain boot that at the end of the song, a kid walked over and stepped into it and it's obvious how different it is because there's no way that big foot would fit in the others.

In Caleb's story, he looked like the others. A man would have been able to look at Caleb and his friends and likely not tell much of a difference...but God said he was different...because he has a different spirit.

There's something different INSIDE him. There's something different influencing him. There's something different leading him.

What does a different spirit look like?

Back in chapter 13:

Numbers 13:1-2 (NKJV)

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.”

God makes a promise...I am giving them this land. But send out spies to check it out...only don't just send anyone, send a **leader** from each tribe.

Church we need to see that these 12 that were sent are already different...they are leaders. This means they were respected and looked up to. When they led, others followed.

So they go and look and come back with this report:

Numbers 13:27-28 (NKJV)

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.

Imagine this report...”you want the good news or the bad news first?”

GOOD - it's just as beautiful as God said it would be. It's what we've always wanted. Forget this desert land, this wilderness we've been wandering in eating the same thing over and over...this land is sweeeet!

Milk and honey...oh and the fruit!

BAD - the people are big and scary and the security is really good. So it's a “no go”

Reading through the story we see that this is 10 of the 12 leaders sharing this viewpoint. Can you imagine the response of the people? “That's great...God promised us something that we can't even have?” “Were going to die in the wilderness...it was better in Egypt where we were slaves”

Numbers 13:30 (NKJV)

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.”

Do you remember that Caleb has a different spirit? It's one of faith. He believes what God has said.

And church, if you believe what God has said...why delay? Go at once. Take possession. Whatever stands between you and what God has given you...you are WELL ABLE to overcome it.

There's not much in life that's good that you don't have obstacles in the way to get to it.

Caleb said "let's go at once...and take what is ours"

Numbers 13:31-33 (NKJV)

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."

Have you ever thought about how big we look to a grasshopper? And we're not giants.

I've really thought about that before...a little grasshopper just before some bigfoot steps on it, it's probably like a sudden eclipse of the sun...everything goes dark and then it's smashed.

I don't even know what we have to compare...maybe really old trees that are 100 ft tall? Imagine looking up in a forest of these trees - AND THEN THE START MOVING.

These leaders who spied the land say they are giants and we are like grasshoppers in our own sight and in theirs.

Hear what they are saying...not only do we believe they can crush us...they believe it too.

You know if you go into a fight and you think the opposition will crush you and they also believe it...you're done for. You lost before you even started.

Numbers 14:6-9 (NKJV)

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."

Joshua and Caleb remind the people that this land is **exceedingly good**.

Whatever the Lord promises is even better when you see it. It's not just that it's flowing with milk and honey...it's exceedingly good. God doesn't promise us stuff that isn't worth the fight.

The Lord will give it to us
Do not rebel or fear the people
They are our bread
Their protection has left, the Lord is with us.

There's a Rick Pino song called You're An Army that we listened to in the car when the kids were younger and they liked to sing the part that said "we cut off the giant's head, we eat giants for our bread."

If God is with you...the enemy can be conquered as easily as bread is eaten. But just being told you can have bread isn't enough...you have to eat it. And if you've been given a promise...you have to go and take it.

God has given it...and He is with you...take it!

I bet Joshua and Caleb had the troops rallied didn't they? I bet they were ready to rush into Canaan! Let's see what they people say:

Numbers 14:10 (NKJV)

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.

When you're for Jesus and ready to go and take what He has said is yours...don't be surprised when the majority are still against you.

They have a problem...and the problem is that they have the same spirit. This is where unity of the spirit is not a good thing...when it's the spirit of fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

This spirit of fear isn't just being scared...it's a cowardly, shameful fear caused by a weak, selfish character.

Man I'd say your character is weak and selfish if you want to stone the 2 people that are trying to lead you to what God has promised you.

Moses prays and the Lord responds:

Numbers 14:24 (NKJV)

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.

Caleb has a different spirit in him. That means it's not the spirit of fear that the others share...it's different.

Paul tells us what spirit God gives us...one of power and of love and of a sound mind.

That's the difference between a person who's lead by the things of this world (fear) and the person that's led by the things of heaven (God's word)

Power - God has given you the victory. You have every spiritual resource that you need for every trial you will face. The question is which spirit will you walk in?

Love - love centers on pleasing God and seeking others' welfare before your own

Sound Mind - a disciplined, self-controlled, and properly prioritized mind. That focuses on the perfect purposes and will of God instead of disorder and confusion.

Caleb has a different spirit because this is the kind of spirit he has. One that believes what God said. One that wants to do what's right for the people. One that focuses on the victory that's been promised and not the obstacles that stand in the way.

God said because Caleb has a different spirit and has followed Him fully...he kept listening to and following God, not man, not fear...followed God fully....

Because of that God will bring him into the land and give it to his descendants as an inheritance.

Do you see the effect that our faith can have? It's not just you...but your children and their children and their children. God's blessing flows down not up.

We've got to be people with a different spirit.

We've got to quit following the masses.

We've got to stop choosing logic over spirit.

We've got to stop choosing self over God.

And we've got to stop trying to do it ourselves.

Matthew 19:26 (NKJV)

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

This was speaking of salvation but it flows down through everything that comes out of it too.

Who will be the Caleb and stand up when all others bow to fear?

Who will be the leader that speaks up when the others are speaking from fear, not from God?

Who will say "Let's go at once"

Who will say "all obstacles are our bread!"

We need a different spirit...the Spirit of the Living God!

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead!