

Caleb

Caleb was among the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land before they intended to enter the Promised Land, [Numbers 13:1-3].

Caleb was the only one who gave a positive report of the land, [Numbers 13:26-33].

Numbers 14:1-9 [New King James] *“So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, ‘If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?’ So they said to one another, ‘Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.’ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. 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; 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. 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.” 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.’”*

The voice of the minority is not often given a hearing, but truth cannot be measured by numbers.

On the contrary, truth often stands against the majority opinion.

Truth remains unchanged because it is guaranteed by the character of the Creator God.

God is truth [John 14:6], He can never lie [Titus 1:2], what God says is the “*last word*.”

At times a person must even stand alone on the side of truth.

Caleb was such a man and the Creator God recognised this, that he had a different spirit than the rest of the people, [Numbers 14:24] and as a result only he and Joshua would in the end be the only ones who came out of Egypt who would inherit the Promised Land, [Numbers 14:20-23].

It was Caleb’s great faith in a great God that made him bold enough to stand out against all the people.

Caleb’s confidence rested in his understanding of the Creator God **not** in the abilities of the people to overcome the inhabitants of the land.

Caleb could **not** agree with the majority for that would mean he would disagree with the God he knew so well.

We also can have this courage to stand out for the truth, God’s Word, the Christian Bible, [John 17:17] by seeking to know the Creator God as well as Caleb did, through a study of His promises as expanded within His Word, the Christian Bible, together with a close relationship with Him.

Too often we base our decisions on what everyone else is doing.

Few of us are cowards as a result of our first-hand experience, like the other spies. We are more like the people of Israel, getting our cowardliness to stand up for the truth second-hand.

Our search for what is right or wrong starts with questions like, “What do the experts say?” or “What do my friends say?”

Instead of what is the most important question, “What does the Creator God say in His Word, the Christian Bible?”

The only dependable principles to guide our life are found in the Word of God, the Christian Bible.

These principles draw us into a personal relationship with our Creator God, the same God who gave Caleb the courage to stand alone for the truth.

Caleb was offered a place in the Promised Land as a result of this relationship.

The same Creator God offers us a place in His eternal created family, if we place all our confidence in Him.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

This has to be a total surrender to the Creator God’s Word and His will.

The Greek word translated “*bodies*” is “*soma*” meaning whole life, physical body, mind and human spirit.