**CALEB**

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: FOLLOWED GOD FULLY**

[**Numbers 14:24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Numbers%2014.24)

**INTRODUCTION**

1. One of the notable stories of the Bible: **the twelve spies** of Israel.

a. Sent to spy out the land of Canaan - [**Num 13:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.1-2)

b. Spent 40 days traversing the land - [**Num 13:21-25**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.21-25)

c. Brought back good news and bad news.

1) A land of milk and honey, as evidenced by the fruit - [**Num 13:27**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.27)

2) A land occupied by strong people and giants - [**Num 13:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.28)

d. One of the spies, **Caleb**, sought to reassure the people - [**Num 13:30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.30)

e. Yet ten of the spies overwhelmed the people with their bad report

- [**Num 13:31-14:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.31-14.4)

f. Only Joshua and Caleb had confidence in the Lord - [**Num 14:6-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.6-9)

g. But the people heeded the bad report, resulting in God's

condemnation.

1) Israel was to spend 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

- [**Num 14:29-34**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.29-34)

2) The ten spies died by a plague before the Lord - [**Num 14:36-37**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.36-37)

3) Only Joshua and Caleb were spared - [**Num 14:38**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.38)

2. The Lord spared Caleb because **"he...has followed Me fully" - [Num](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.24" \t "_blank)**

**[14:24](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.24" \t "_blank)**

1. A similar statement about Caleb made time and again - **Num 32:11-12;**

[**Deut 1:36**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Deut%201.36)**;** [**Josh 14:8-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.8-9)**,[14](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.14" \t "_blank)**

b. What a wonderful epitaph of a man’s service for God:

**"He wholly followed the LORD God of Israel."**

**. WHAT IT IS TO FOLLOW THE LORD FULLY**

**A. TO FOLLOW JESUS ALL OUR DAYS...**

1. Such was the case with Caleb

a. He followed the Lord in the wilderness and 45 years later

b. Caleb followed the Lord in the land of Canaan.

- [**Josh 14:8-10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.8-10)

2. Yet many who claim to be followers fail to continue.

a. Like Lot's wife, they turn back - [**Gen 19:26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Gen%2019.26)

b. Like the Galatians, they are easily bewitched - [**Ga 3:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ga%203.1)

3. What of us who follow Jesus today?

a. Shall we follow Him in our youth? - cf. [**1Ti 4:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%204.12)

b. Shall we follow Him in our old age? - cf. [**Tit 2:1-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Tit%202.1-5)**; Ps 92:**

**12-15**

Let our testimony be like **Caleb who followed the Lord, all the**

**days of his life.**

**B. TO FOLLOW JESUS WITH ALL OUR HEART...**

1. Caleb followed the Lord "fully", "wholly"

a. That is, with his whole heart

b. The perfect role model for what Jesus called "the greatest

commandment" - cf. [**Mt 22:36-38**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2022.36-38)

2. Sadly, many try to serve the Lord with divided hearts

a. Like Solomon, who was influenced by his foreign wives

- [**1Ki 11:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ki%2011.4)

b. Like those in James' epistle, seeking to be friends with the

world - [**Jm 4:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%204.4)

3. What of us who follow Jesus today?

a. Shall we follow Him with all our heart? - cf. [**Jn 14:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2014.15)

b. Shall we follow Him with undivided affection? - cf. **1Jn 2:**

**15-17**

**C. TO FOLLOW JESUS DESPITE THE HAZARDS...**

1. Caleb followed the Lord despite the dangers

a. He was willing to face the giants in the land - cf. **Num 13:**

**33**

b. He was willing to face the wrath of his brethren - cf. **[Num](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.10" \t "_blank)**

**[14:10](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.10" \t "_blank)**

c. He was willing to take a mountain from the giants in his old

age - cf. [**Josh 14:10-12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.10-12)

2. Many will serve the Lord only when it is convenient

a. When it is popular, like the crowds who followed Jesus

b. When it is safe, like Peter before confronted by the maiden

- cf. [**Mt 26:69-70**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2026.69-70)

3. What of us who follow Jesus today?

a. Shall we follow Him only when convenient?

b. Shall we follow Him despite ridicule, persecution, dangers?

- cf. [**Mt 5:10-12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%205.10-12)

**-- Shall we follow Jesus like Caleb followed the Lord, despite the**

**hazards?**

**II. HOW CAN WE TO FOLLOW THE LORD FULLY**

**A. BY KEEPING OUR EYE ON HIM...**

1. Caleb's faith was in the Lord, not himself

a. He was confident they could take the land - [**Num 13:30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.30)

b. But that was because he knew the Lord would be with them

- [**Num 14:6-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.6-9)

c. Thus his eye was on the Lord!

2. So we need to keep our eye on Jesus - cf. [**He 12:1-4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2012.1-4)

a. Looking unto Him as the author and finisher of our faith

b. Considering the hostility He endured, knowing the Father

will help us as He helped Him to endure

**Like Caleb we must look to the Lord for our inspiration and confidence.**

**B. BY HAVING A DIFFERENT SPIRIT...**

1. Caleb was noted for a having a different spirit - [**Num 14:24**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.24)

a. Different than the spirit in the other ten spies, who were consumed with unbelief. - [**Num 13:31**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.31)

b. Different than the spirit in the rest of Israel, who complained - cf. [**Num 14:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.1-2)

2. We can be strengthened by a different spirit.

a. Certainly the spirit of a positive attitude will help – **Ph 4:13**

b. By believing that the Spirit of God is with us! - cf.

[**Ro 8:12-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.12-13)**;** [**Ep 3:16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%203.16)

We must walk with a **"can do" attitude, knowing we are clothed in**

**the strength of God's might. - cf.** [**Ep 6:10-13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%206.10-13)

**III. MOTIVATION TO FOLLOW THE LORD FULLY**

**A. IT LEADS TO A USEFUL LIFE...**

1. Consider how God was able to use Caleb:

a. As a leader in Israel - cf. [**Num 13:2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.2)**,[6](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.6" \t "_blank);** [**34:18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2034.18)**,**[**19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2034.19)

b. As a servant of God, first to spy out the land, then to

divide it - cf. [**Num 14:24a**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.24a)

c. As an example of faith and courage - [**Num 13:30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.30)**;** [**14:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.8)**,**[**9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.9)

d. As a reminder of God's justice - [**Num 14:29-30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2014.29-30)

e. As an inspiration of service, even in old age - [**Josh 14:6-12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.6-12)

2. How useful will we be, if we follow Jesus fully?

a. We can be an example in youth - [**1Ti 4:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Ti%204.12)

b. We can be useful to the Master - [**2Ti 2:20-22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Ti%202.20-22)

**-- Don't we want to be useful to Jesus?**

**B. IT LEADS TO A FULFILLED LIFE...**

1. Consider how Caleb was fulfilled in life:

a. Only he and Joshua were blessed to enter Canaan - **Deut 1:**

**35-36**

1. He received the land around Hebron as an inheritance -

**"THE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF JOSHUA"**

[**Joshua 24:29-31**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Joshua%2024.29-31)

**INTRODUCTION**

1. It is impressive to note the great influence that Joshua had with

those of his generation - cf. [**Josh 24:29-31**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2024.29-31)

a. Of course, much of that influence was due to God being with him

and doing many "great works"

b. Such as the parting of the Jordan River, the fall of Jericho, the

day the sun and moon stood still

2. But credit must also be given to Joshua, for from the very beginning

the promise of God's support was based upon Joshua's faithful

obedience to the Word of God - [**Josh 1:1-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%201.1-9)

3. Joshua therefore stands before us as an example of what it takes to

be a great leader...

a. Every generation needs good leadership, especially in times of

struggle and doubt

b. For those who lead, or who might one day serve as leaders, Joshua

serves as a role model

c. For those who follow, he serves as an example of what we should

look for in our leaders

[In this lesson, we shall consider more closely those qualities of

Joshua that served to make him the great leader that he was, so that we

know what to expect in those who would lead today.

We begin by noticing that Joshua was...]

**I. A MAN OF HUMILITY**

**A. BEFORE HE WAS A LEADER, HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE...**

1. For forty years he served under Moses in the Wilderness

2. He was known as "Moses' assistant", "his servant" - [**Exo 24:13**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2024.13)**;**

[**33:11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2033.11)

-- Great leaders are people who have no problem with serving

others if that is their lot in life; indeed, it helps prepare

to them to lead

**B. EVEN AS A LEADER, HE WAS WILLING TO SERVE...**

1. Though having been magnified by the Lord himself - [**Josh 3:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%203.7)**;**

[**4:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%204.14)

2. He was still willing to serve One greater than himself - **[Josh](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%205.13-15" \t "_blank)**

**[5:13-15](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%205.13-15" \t "_blank)**

-- Great leaders do not let praise go to their head; they are

humble enough to know when it is time to serve once again

[Joshua's humility is also demonstrated as we consider another quality

that we find in him...]

**II. A MAN OF FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD**

**A. AS DEMONSTRATED WHEN SENT TO SPY OUT THE LAND...**

1. Ten of the twelve spies demonstrated their lack of faith in

God by their report - [**Num 13:25-28**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2013.25-28)

2. But despite the "peer pressure" he must have felt, Joshua

(along with Caleb) demonstrated his faith in God by his report

- cf. [**Nu 14:6-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Nu%2014.6-9)

**B. AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE FALL OF JERICHO...**

1. The Lord gave him the instructions to take the city - **[Josh](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%206.1-5" \t "_blank)**

**[6:1-5](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%206.1-5" \t "_blank)**

2. Only full trust and faith in the Lord could have led Joshua to

follow such instructions, but he did! - cf. [**He 11:30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2011.30)

[Great leaders realize they cannot place their faith in men (including

themselves); they must look to God!

Closely related to this is another quality of Joshua that made him a

great leader: he was...]

**III. A MAN OF GOD'S WORD**

**A. HIS SUCCESS WAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIS ADHERENCE TO THE WORD OF**

**GOD...**

1. To ensure success, he had to fulfill all the Law as given by

Moses - [**Josh 1:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%201.7)

2. To ensure that he did, he was to meditate upon the Law day and

night - [**Josh 1:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%201.8)

**B. TIME AND AGAIN, WE SEE THAT JOSHUA WAS TRUE TO THE WORD...**

1. In reminding the two and half tribes of their responsibility

- [**Josh 1:12-15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%201.12-15)

2. In renewing the covenant at Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim -

[**Josh 8:30-35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%208.30-35)

3. A summary of Joshua's devotion is found in [**Josh 11:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2011.15)

4. Even at the end of his life, he encouraged the nation to heed

God's Word - [**Josh 23:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2023.6)**,[14-16](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2023.14-16" \t "_blank)**

[Faith comes from the Word of God ([**Ro 10:17**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2010.17)), so we really can't

expect one to be a man of faith without being a man of God's Word.

For those who would lead, they need to heed the charge God gave Joshua

([**Josh 1:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%201.8)), which is similar to the charge Paul gave Timothy (**[1 Ti](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Ti%204.13-16" \t "_blank)**

**[4:13-16](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Ti%204.13-16" \t "_blank)**).

Closely related to being a man of faith and trust is being...]

**IV. A MAN OF PRAYER**

**A. WE SEE HIM PRAYING FOR HIS PEOPLE'S FAILURES...**

1. Following the defeat at Ai - [**Josh 7:6-9**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%207.6-9)

2. In which he and the elders pleaded with God in behalf of

Israel

**B. WE SEE HIM PRAYING IN THE MIDST OF WARFARE...**

1. As Israel is routing the kings of the south - [**Josh 10:9-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2010.9-14)

2. Trusting not in their own strength, he looks to the Lord for

help, Who causes the sun and moon to stand still

[If Joshua had not been a man of prayer, the aid of the Lord would not

have been provided. When leaders need all the help they can get, they

need to be men of prayer!

Finally, it should be clear from what we have already seen that another

quality of leadership found in Joshua is that he was...]

**V. A MAN WHO PUT GOD FIRST**

**A. BEFORE THE BUSINESS AT HAND...**

1. Even in the middle of a military campaign - [**Josh 8:30-35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%208.30-35)**;** cf.

**Deut 27-28**

2. Though it gave their enemies time to join together in

opposition ([**Josh 9:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%209.1-2)), Joshua still put God first and kept

His commandment concerning the blessings and cursings

**B. BEFORE OTHERS...**

1. He cared not what others might do or think, he would serve the

Lord! - [**Josh 24:14-15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2024.14-15)

2. His strong stand influenced others for good - [**Josh 24:16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2024.16)

**CONCLUSION**

1. It was qualities such as these that made Joshua the strong leader

that he was...

a. He was a man of humility

b. He was a man of faith and trust in God

c. He was a man of God's Word

d. He was a man of prayer

e. He was a man who put God first

2. But he was not alone in these things, as it appears that others of

his generation were much the same - cf. [**Josh 24:31**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2024.31)

a. As long as the elders who had been contemporary with Joshua

survived, the nation as a whole served the Lord

b. So we are not talking about supernatural qualities, but those

which each and every person is capable of possessing!

Finally, consider some similarities between Joshua and Jesus...

1) Their names are the same (Joshua is Hebrew, Jesus is Greek),

which means "savior"

2) Joshua was the leader of the Israelites into the promised land of

Canaan; Jesus is our leader into the promised land of heaven -

cf. [**Jn 14:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2014.1)

3) As Joshua pointed the people to the Word of God, so did Jesus -

[**Mt 7:21**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%207.21)

4) As Joshua was an agent of both grace (cf. Rahab) and damnation

(cf. nations of Canaan), so Jesus is both savior and judge of all

men, who metes out death as well as life - [**Mt 25:34**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2025.34)**,**[**41**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2025.41)

Have you humbly submitted to the One who should be the Commander and

Leader of your life...?

c. His land had rest from war - [**Josh 14:15**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Josh%2014.15)

2. What kind of fulfilled life does Jesus offer those who follow

Him fully today?

a. One that experiences love which passes knowledge - [**Ep 3:19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%203.19)

b. One that experiences peace which surpasses understanding

- [**Php 4:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%204.7)

c. One that experiences joy inexpressible - [**1Pe 1:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%201.8)

d. One in which our daily needs are provided - [**Mt 6:33**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%206.33)

**-- Don't we want to have a fulfilled life?**

**CONCLUSION**

1. Let the example of Caleb inspire you to follow the Lord fully in your

life...

a. To follow Jesus all the days of your life

b. To follow Jesus with all your heart

c. To follow Jesus despite the hazards

2. Shall we, like Caleb, follow the Lord fully so we too may...

a. Have a useful life in service to the Lord?

b. Have a fulfilled life that is blessed by the Lord?

Don't forget - Caleb and Joshua were the only two (out of 603,550 men)

who survived the forty years of wilderness wanderings and entered the

promised land (**[Num 32:10-13](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2032.10-13" \t "_blank)**). Their brethren did not enter Canaan, for

as the Lord said of them "they have not wholly followed Me".

How are we following the Lord? Like Caleb? Or like those who died in

the wilderness...?