

# GOD IS \_\_\_\_\_

## Part 22: God is Relentless

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God is relentless in pursuit and calling.

### **The people of Israel spy out the land God promised them and bring back this report:**

<sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. – Numbers 13:27-32

### **Joshua and Caleb share a different perspective:**

<sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup> If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.” – Numbers 14:6-9

### **45 years later:**

<sup>7</sup> I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, <sup>8</sup> but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly. <sup>9</sup> So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.’

<sup>10</sup> “Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! <sup>11</sup> I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. <sup>12</sup> 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.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. <sup>14</sup> So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly. – Joshua 14:7-14

## **Because of the relentless pursuit of God, at 85 years old Caleb is still taking a radical step of faith.**

Any step of faith begins with the conviction that God is faithful (verses 7-8)

Any step of faith is rooted in trusting God's promise (verses 9-10)

Any step of faith taps into spiritual strength (verse 11)

Any step of faith engages an enemy (verse 11)

Any step of faith takes new territory (verse 12)

Any step of faith demonstrates that I “followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly”. (verses 8, 9, 14)

### **What is your step of faith?**

### **Does your step of faith follow the model of Caleb?**

#### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Did you get any time to enjoy the sun last week? What did you do?
- 2) Are you naturally conservative and cautious or do you enjoy taking risks?
- 3) What do you want to do when you retire? How do your plans line up with Caleb's attitude?
- 4) Have you ever taken a step of faith? What happened? What did you learn about God and yourself?
- 5) Share the step of faith that you wrote down on your outline.
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

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