

Text: Numbers 13:25-33, Numbers 14: 5-45

The Plain Truth

Don't let _____ get in the way of your _____.

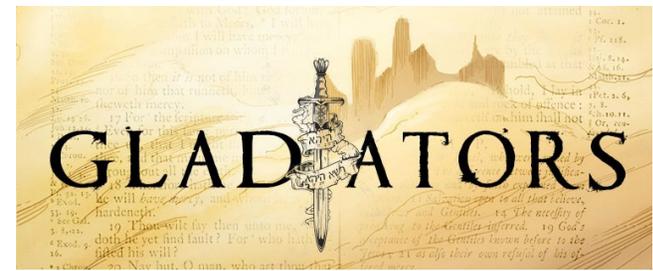
What can we learn from Caleb's faith in the wilderness?

1. Caleb believed that the size of the _____ could not compare with the size of God's _____.
2. Caleb's attention was forward focused on the promised _____ to come.
3. Caleb trusted that God would not _____ him.

Principles to overcome our giants and prepare for God's harvest:

1. Be fully _____ to the Lord.
2. Know and believe God's _____ versus the _____ of the enemy.
3. Keep our focus on God and the _____.

July 9 & 10, 2016



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Gladiators

Personal Study • Week of July 10

Two years after Israel's departure from Egypt, Moses sent twelve spies to scout Canaan. He said: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in... Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see" (see Numbers 13:17-20). But out of nearly one million people the Lord led out of Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb were able to see the Promised Land.

When the spies returned from their expedition ten of the men selected began to spread fear in the people. Oh it's a land flowing with milk and honey, they said, "But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and fortified. We even saw giants there... Caleb tried to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. 'Let's go at once to take the land,' he said. 'We can certainly conquer it!' But the people would not listen. Instead of believing God, they chose to follow their fears.

Read Numbers 14:1-12

1. Joshua and Caleb trusted God and spoke faith instead of fear (v9) and yet the people wanted to stone them (v10). Why is it that expressions of trust in God often bring about severe opposition?

According to **Ephesians 6:10-12**, what force is at work behind secular and even religious opposition to the Lord God? Now read **Ephesians 6:13-18**. How are we to prepare, respond, and arm ourselves for such opposition?

Because of unbelief, the Lord said: "They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will ever see it. But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have. He has remained loyal to me, so I will bring him into the land he explored. His descendants will possess their full share of that land" (Numbers 14:23-24). And indeed, Caleb did receive God's promise. After enduring 40 years in the wilderness – while an entire generation died out – he took his share when he was 85 years old (Joshua 14:6-14).

2. Caleb told Joshua: "I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. So give me the hill country that the LORD promised me" (Joshua 14:11-12a). Caleb's time in the wilderness only made him stronger and more confident in the Lord his God. What wilderness are you enduring right now?

Whether your wilderness is of your own disobedience, a result of someone else's poor choices, or just life itself, what is the Lord teaching you? Will you hold on until you receive the Lord's promise over your life? When the time was right, Caleb *took* his share. Maybe the time for you is right now! How is the Lord directing you to live into His promised inheritance? The lives of future generations are at stake. Will you be the superhero – the Spiritual Gladiator God is calling you to be for your family?

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