



# An Eagle's View!

## A "Spirit of Faith":

God has called each of us, as believers in Christ, to live lives of Faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God (**Heb. 11:6**). We must have faith even to believe that God is. Faith is the one true evidence of a living relationship with God.

We cannot see God in His full reality while in our earthly state of "flesh". The best that we can hope for is to hear His voice, in the many expressions of His heart to us, in this realm that we presently call home. It is when we hear His voice that we have faith in Him who spoke (**Rom. 10:17**).

God speaks to us in many ways. He speaks through the things which He created in order that we might hear (**Rom. 1:20**). He has spoken through the mouths of His prophets and His inspired word of truth (**2Pet. 1:19-21**). He speaks through the mouths of His saints (**1Pet. 4:11**) and by the divine inspiration of His Holy Spirit within our hearts (**Jn. 14:26; Jn. 16:13**). God speaks to us in order to give us precious promises. He gives these promises in order that we may be partakers of His divine nature (**2Pet. 1:4**). It is God's intention to make us like Him in every way so that we can enter into an intimate relationship of life and peace with Him. He has called us to be "seekers of Him" even as He is a "seeker of men" who will worship Him (**Jn. 4:23**).



As we have found in previous newsletters, the issue of receiving the promises of God is a matter of proper belief and warfare. We must be full of faith and full of patience in order to inherit the promises of God in our lives.

*Heb 6:10 For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

We cannot become "sluggish" in our relationship with the living God! We must remain intimately close to Him in order to remain full of faith and patience. In this newsletter I want to address the subject of having an attitude and focus in life which keeps us in an active exercise of a "spirit of faith". Faith is not just an action that leads to life. It is an attitude of the heart. We are living in a day when many men's hearts are failing them for fear of those things which are around them. Apart from God, men's hearts have been failing them for generations. It is only when we are daily involved with the living God that we can keep our hearts strong. In Him we can be confident of things that lead to life and peace!

Our hearts must remain full of faith in order for us to have "footsteps" that declare a life action of faith in Him. As those who have gone before us in the path of life, we must



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press on toward the mark that is set before us.

*Heb. 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him." 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.*



We are not of those who draw back. We were "born again" into a "living hope" whereby we can press on toward our upward call in Christ Jesus.

There is only one way that we can endure such a race. It is not by "actions" of faith alone. It is only possible by a "spirit" of faith.

*Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

In this eleventh chapter of Hebrews we find an awesome account of men and women of faith who set their lives upon a

journey to receive the great and precious promises of God. This chapter begins by telling us that faith is more than just an action. It is a



"substance". This "substance" is a different spirit than that which is found in the world. It is the "substance" that carries us through the times of adversity and frustration. It is the "substance" that spurred those such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets toward their goal in Christ. These men and women were not people of "perfection". These were individuals who had a "spirit of faith". It wasn't just their actions that justified them. It was their attitude. They were motivated by faith in spite of their shortcomings. Abraham had moments of fear (**Gen. 12:11-20**). Isaac had the same (**Gen. 26:7-10**). Moses had moments of frustration (**Num. 20:10-12**). Rahab was a harlot (**Josh. 2:1**). Gideon was afraid (**Jdg. 6:11**). Barak relinquished some of his authority (**Jdg. 4:8,9**). Samson yielded to the temptations of the flesh (**Jdg. 16:4-18**). Jephthah was the son of a harlot, a leader of raiding bands and sacrificed his own daughter for the vow of his mouth (**Jdg. 11**). David committed adultery (**2Sam. 11:2-4**) and murder (**2Sam. 11:14-17**). These men and women were not perfect in themselves. They were men and women who had a "different spirit". These were men and women who had a "spirit of faith".

*Heb. 11:39 And all these, having obtained*



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*a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

If faith was just an action aimed toward a physical promise, then all of these would have failed in their walk of faith upon the earth. It is only those with a “spirit of faith” that can endure the trials of mockings, scourgings, chains and imprisonments. Only those with a “spirit of faith” can endure stoning, sawing in two and slaying of the sword. Only those with a “spirit of faith” can endure wandering, destitution, affliction, torment, and wanderings in deserts, mountains, dens and caves of the earth (**Heb. 11:36-38**).

Although these great men and women of faith did not see the full promise upon this earth, they are part of a great cloud of witnesses who are viewing the continued increase of those promises in the generations that follow.

*Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

Even Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, endured the cross upon this earth for “the joy that was set before Him”. We have no need to be discouraged in our souls.

*Heb. 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy*

*that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*

It is time that we receive a “different spirit”. We were empty and void of life but through our living relationship with the living God we have received faith, the “substance” of life. We cannot be like those in times past who saw the “works” of faith but failed to see the “spirit of faith” work in their lives.



*Num. 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:*

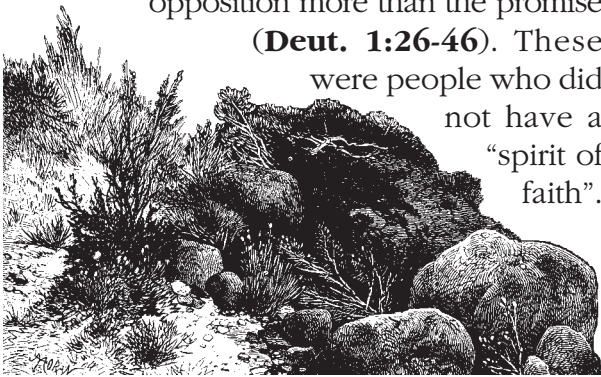
A generation who lacked the “spirit” of faith found themselves “dead” in the desert plains of hopelessness and despair. Will we do the same? Or will we press on with a different spirit? How do we know if we have a “spirit of faith” or not? If we will listen to what our mouths speak, we will hear what motivates our hearts. Israel murmured and accused God of deceiving them and deliberately leading them into a trap so that



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the Egyptians could kill them (Ex. 14:11-12). They murmured at the bitter waters of their own sin (Ex. 15:23-26). They willfully disobeyed God's command concerning their "daily bread" (Ex. 16:19-22). They murmured for water at Rephidim (Ex. 17:1-7). They pursued gods of their own hands and their own idolatrous ways (Ex. 32). They murmured for having to accommodate the burning presence of God on their journey in the wilderness (Num. 11:1-3) and they cried out for the food of their own flesh instead of God's food of life (Ex. 16:19-22; Num. 11:4-35). They despised God's voice and thought that hearing Him was a thing to be taken lightly (Num. 12). They rejected God's authority and thought His anointing was a thing to be grasped (Num. 16). Through their unbelief they tempted God to allow them to send spies into the land of promise (Deut. 1:20-25) whereby they revealed their doubt in the promise of God and focused on the opposition more than the promise

(Deut. 1:26-46). These were people who did not have a "spirit of faith".



*Num. 14: 24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.*

Caleb was a man with another "spirit".

Caleb had a "spirit of faith". It was Caleb's "spirit" that kept strong for forty five years and enabled him to lay hold of the promise which the Lord had given him.

*Josh. 14:6 Then the children of Judah came to Joshua in Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him: "You know the word which the LORD said to Moses the man of God concerning you and me in Kadesh Barnea. 7 "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as it was in my heart.*

The report that Caleb brought back of the promised land was different than that of those who saw the opposition. His report was determined by a "different spirit". Caleb's report was determined in "his heart" because a "different spirit" motivated his heart. Caleb had a "spirit of faith". His fellow Israelites (with the exception of Joshua) could not step out with "actions" of faith because "actions" of faith require first a "spirit of faith". Caleb had to wait for that faithless generation to die. In the time that it took for the "faithless generation" to die, Caleb did not lose his ability to pursue "actions of faith" because Caleb had another "spirit". He had a "spirit of faith". When you have a "spirit of faith" it doesn't matter how long it takes for the "actions of faith" to come. A "spirit of faith" will take you through to the promise of God. Without a "spirit of faith" your heart will "melt" in the day of adversity.

*Josh. 14:8 "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the*



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*people melt, but I wholly followed the LORD my God.*

Caleb possessed a spirit that would not allow his heart to “melt”. When we possess a “spirit of faith” our hearts will remain strong. A strong heart will allow us to “remain on our feet” and pursue the race that is set before us.

*Josh. 14: 9 "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'*

Caleb was able to “remain on his feet” and walk through the land of promise with a “spirit of faith” to one day possess that which he saw. In the next verse we find that the Lord kept Caleb “alive” for the appointed time of his inheritance.

*Josh. 14:10 "And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the LORD spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.*



The Hebrew word for alive, here, is the word “chayah” and it means “to live” or “to revive”. It is only by a “spirit of faith” that we can remain “revived” for the duration of the journey to obtain what is set before us. Actions of faith will not

“revive” us. Only a “spirit of faith” can keep us revived for the task that is before us.

Because Caleb had a “spirit of faith” he was able to remain strong. He was ready to dispossess the giants that were before him because he knew by “a different spirit” that God had given him the land. The name Anakim means “long necked”. Caleb knew that these giants were nothing more than headless obstacles to his inheritance. A “spirit of faith” caused Caleb to see things as they really were.

*Josh. 14:11 "As yet I am as strong this day as I was on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. 12 "Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."*



Caleb’s attitude of faith was not that he would take the mountain. His attitude of faith was more than the hope of “an action”. He didn’t say that the cities of the Anakim were great but God said he would defeat them. He said “I am as strong this day as I was on the day that Moses sent me.” “Give me the mountain.” “It may be that the Lord will be



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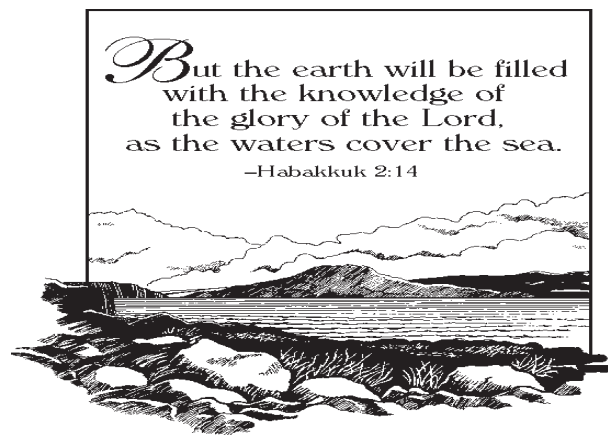
with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said". Caleb's faith wasn't in the event of taking the mountain. Caleb's attitude wasn't that he was going to defeat the Anakim on his own. His faith wasn't for an "action" of defeating the Anakim. His was a "spirit of faith" that believed God had given him the land. His faith was in God who had "said". Caleb didn't have faith for a "moment". He had a "spirit of faith" for a "course of life"! When we have a "spirit of faith" we can say like Caleb, "It may be that the Lord will be with me!" A word of "faith" can easily have preconceived ideas as to what needs to happen to fulfill the word which has been given. A "spirit of faith" will trust God to bring to pass the promise. God's promise is not limited to come to pass in the way that we preconceive that it will. It is founded upon the presence of God to fulfill His promise.

*Josh. 14:13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. 14 Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel. 15 And the name of Hebron formerly was Kirjath Arba, for Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim. Then the land had rest from war.*

Will we be men and women of "a different spirit"? Will we be men and women of a "spirit of faith" in our generation. Let us run with endurance the

race that is set before us! Let us take on an "attitude" of life that cannot be quenched, no matter how many disappointments fall by our side. We must remain strong for the appointed day of our inheritance. We can run this race for the generations to come!

*By Ted J. Hanson*



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