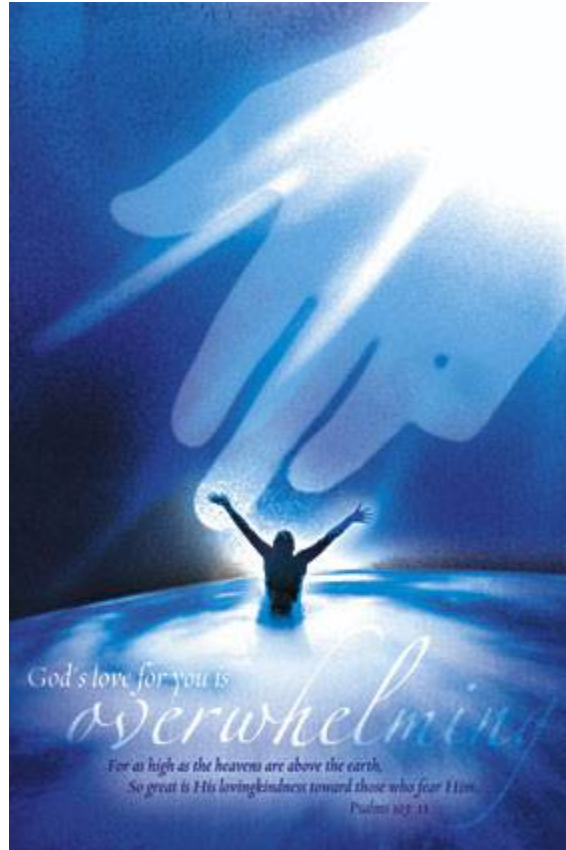


The Writer's Spirit

The Spirit of Creation Moving in You...



Welcome to our July 2007 Edition – Youthful Vitality

Though we have made many new discoveries on Joshua, we will save those for later. As promised last month, now we will be focusing on Caleb.

While the name of Joshua conjures up the vision of a great hero, at the mere mention of Caleb, faces cloud with confusion. Many have the sensation of knowing that they have heard of him, but just can't quite put a finger on where.

If mentioned together, some instantly recognize them as being among the twelve spies who scouted out the Promised Land and the only two who came back with a favorable report. If the details are fuzzy, spend a few moments

in your Bible reading this fascinating story in the Old Testament, **Numbers 13** and **14**.

Caleb, an epic hero of Biblical proportions in his own right, is not as widely known as Joshua. His feats, though outlined in the Bible, are not as obvious as his compatriot's and not compressed into one book. Instead, if we are to truly understand him, we have to dig, study, infer-in other words, really work at it-just as he had to work at becoming a leader.

Our efforts are not unlike this hero's quest to become a great leader of his time. His leadership came at the price of working really hard against insurmountable odds. For his faithfulness, God gave him the gift of youthful vitality; eventually, promoting him leader over the tribe of Judah and then over all of Israel.

Initially, I struggled with why was it so easy to know Joshua and so hard to know Caleb. Finally, at the end, I concluded that it was God's will to reveal them as their lives had played out in their pursuit of leadership.

Joshua ascended to leadership with ease. From his youth, he had been groomed for the top spot. It was no surprise when he stepped into the role of leader over the nation of Israel at the death of his mentor, Moses.

Caleb, on the other hand, had to clamor, fight and struggle every step of the way. His ascension reminded me of the character William Wallace in the blockbuster movie "Braveheart." He was a simple, common man of faith who rose to greatness by virtue of his blood, sweat and tears with God overseeing every step.

Despite very different paths, Joshua and Caleb exhibited astounding leadership, God's way. As is true with all ascensions to leadership; no two trails are alike. There are no easy routes. The paths are marred with ups and downs; smooth trails and rocky roads; steep climbs, plummeting cliffs; treacherous ascents and even more dangerous descents.

Powerful lessons and insights can be gained from each of these icons as we watch them navigate their way up and down the turbulent roads of leadership. Their lives took two different paths with totally different challenges.

God leaves each with His imprint--lives filled with His Heavenly favor not failure. In the end, both ended up right where God intended, leading the nation of Israel.

One of the most shocking discoveries about Caleb was that he was not an Israelite by birth. In spite of his impure blood, God chose him to rise to the ultimate leadership position of his time. Any idea how tough that had to be

amongst a group of people who were known to not be "overly welcoming" to outsiders?

Using Caleb as a model, those of us who are pegged outsiders to the establishment because of ethnicity, religion, gender, etc. can find hope and guidance to excel beyond our current borders. I believe the power of Caleb's journey can be understood better when contrasted against Joshua. So throughout this series, both will be studied. While they lived thousands of years ago, their paths to leadership are still relevant today.

As I shared Caleb's struggles with my husband, he took a quick mental tour of his life. Sudden recognition gleamed in his eyes. Unable to contain himself he whispered in almost disbelief, "I'm a Caleb."

I sighed in deep resignation, "So are most of us." Let's face it. Who among us is being groomed to take over corporations, institutions or organizations? If you are like us, we struggle to make headways in our own house!

As I mulled over this thought, I became convinced that for most of us, our life experiences align more closely to those of Caleb than Joshua. Like Caleb, we have to fight, struggle, finagle, claw, and finesse our way up the rocky mountain of leadership. Unlike Joshua, most of us are not being groomed or mentored to assume key leadership roles.

The lives of both of these men contain powerful lessons on leadership God's way. Even if you happen to be one of the few actively being groomed and mentored for leadership, there are still lessons to be learned by studying both Joshua and Caleb.

For those of us not receiving grooming from an earthly mentor, do not be discouraged. Rejoice that God has given us Caleb as a beacon to light our way. Allow Caleb's life to guide you along the path to receive God's favor in your quest for leadership.

After reading the story of Joshua and Caleb in Numbers 13 and 14, here are questions for you to reflect upon:

- 1) Why did ten of the spies see giants and the other two see something totally different?
- 2) Name the giants in your life.
- 3) Who are the "naysayers" in your life?
- 4) What impact are the "naysayers" having on you?
- 5) What impact are the "naysayers" having on your walk with God?
- 6) What are you perishing from because of your unbelief?

Stay tuned next month to continue to glean lessons and insights from these two heroes of the Bible.

We pray that this message will inspire you to use your creativity to do God's kingdom work.

Take a few moments to visit our [Reading Room](#) to preview an excerpt from Dr. Vivi Monroe Congress' latest book, "[Manna for Mamma: Wisdom for Women in the Wilderness](#)." You won't want to miss this explosive work that is sure to change your life.

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"Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return." Luke 6:38

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