

## Caleb, a Man with a Different Spirit

When a comparison of the Hebrew is made with the Syriac and Arabic words for Caleb, the word takes on the meaning that goes beyond that of “a dog” to “raging with dog madness”.

The first mention of Caleb is when Moses selected him to be one of the spies to go into Canaan. (Nu. 13:6).

When the other spies gave their negative report, Caleb observed the fear level rising in the congregation, and he “quieted the people before Moses, and said, we should by all means go up and take possession of it for we shall surely overcome it” (Nu. 13:30).

All twelve of the spies had seen the same cities, fortifications and the giants. They were all exposed to the same facts, yet ten of them gave a negative report and two of them gave a positive report. What made such a drastic difference of opinion? The answer is obvious: The ten spies compared themselves to the problem and the two spies compared the problem to the promise.

By comparing yourself to the problem, you will always seem inadequate, weak and incapable to challenge it. The ten spies said, “...we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight” (Nu. 13:33). They viewed themselves as grasshoppers in size and ability. What they saw in themselves could never make a meaningful challenge against the giants. Within us is not the capability to “fight the good fight of faith.”

By comparing the problem with the promise that God would give them the land, Caleb and Joshua came back with a totally different conclusion. Within the word of God that has been given to you has power of performance. His word is forever established in the heavens. Take hold of “God words” in the Scripture and those that have been spoken directly or indirectly to you, believe them and take action on them.

After hearing the reports from the spies, the congregation of Israel wept all that night, fretting over their seemingly impossible mission to conquer the land of Canaan. They had accepted the report of the majority. A rule to remember: the majority is not always right. The people had been persuaded by reason, logic and natural facts. Carnal thinking can be stinky thinking. Logic and reason are not faith builders to do the supernatural.

Under the cloud of the negative report, the people began to question the promise of God, their mission and destiny. Why did the Lord bring us out of Egypt to fall by the edge of the sword? Since our wives and children will become plundering, would it not be better to return to Egypt? And in light of their questions, they decided to appoint another leader. Nehemiah said this, “So they became stubborn and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt” (Neh. 9:17). What insolence and ingratitude to the Lord that had so gloriously delivered them from the army of Egypt. Fear had so robbed them of their knowledge of God’s deliverance power that they could not apply it to their invasion of Canaan.

Fear will blind people of their past supernatural deliverance. Quoting Jessie Duplantis, “Fear tolerated is faith contaminated.”

Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes, and stood before the people with the following appeals:

1. Do not rebel against the Lord,
2. Do not fear the people of the land,
3. For they shall be our prey,
4. Their protection has been removed from them,
5. The Lord is with us!

Joshua and Caleb were declaring if you do not rebel against God, nor fear the people of the land, you will be like a lion seeking his prey. The two spies declared to Israel, you are a lion and the inhabitants of Canaan are your prey. The other ten spies had declared to Israel, you are grasshoppers to be stepped on by the giants of Canaan. What report are you going to believe?

The inner picture that Joshua and Caleb had of the Canaanites was their minute size in comparison to God. They were not large enough to even cast a shadow. They were smaller than the smallest midget. And to bring a conclusion to their appeal, they declared, "God is with us!" If God is for you who can be against you?

The congregation picked up stones to kill them, but God intervened with His glory cloud. Because of Caleb's faith and stand, God said, "But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it" (Num. 14:24). A man of a different spirit!

For 38 years Caleb endured all of the complaining, grumbling, rebellion, strife, jealousy and was not influenced or corrupted by it. He continued to keep his heart right and fully follow the Lord. This is a true example to all of those who are involved in local churches. Regardless of how excellent your church is, there will be problems and problem people. Because the "stuff of life" manifests itself and the church goes through times of trouble is not an excuse to abandon ship and relocate. Stick it out and keep your heart right. Stay in the stream even if you are being jostled and tumbled against other members of the body. The worse that can happen is your rough places will be smoothed. To be polished is a process and it takes place within the body of Christ.

After Joshua had divided the land between the tribes of Israel, Caleb approached Joshua at Gilgal and reminded him of his personal promise from God. "I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land....and I followed the Lord my God fully. I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now give me this mountain God promised to me and I will drive out the giants!" (Josh. 14)

Disregarding his age and the difficulty of the challenge, Caleb requested the opportunity to take "His Mountain". This should speak volumes to seniors. It is never too late to take your mountain, or accepting the challenge to fulfill your ministry. Caleb, true to the meaning of his name, became a raging, attacking dog, filled with passion and the anticipation to claim his promise from God. Surely, he was a man with a different spirit.

### **The Caleb Mentality**

The mentality of Caleb is explained by the meaning of his name: attack with raging madness! He was more concerned with going on offense than developing a defense system. Offense is going on the attack. Defense is going on guard.

There is not a better time in the history of the church to go on the attack. It is time to develop and execute an aggressive plan to take “our mountain”, regardless of the problems that exist in the world.

There exists a mentality by certain leaders to fortify the walls of the church so they may be impenetrable by evil assaults. Otherwise, fortify the walls of the church, put the people inside and wait for the enemy to attack. This strategy sounds good, but it is not consistent with the great commission given by Jesus, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel....”

During the 1960's thousands of people sought for ways to escape the traditions of family and government. They identified those traditions as hypocrisy and wanted to get real and develop a pure culture. They searched out isolated areas to live in the deserts, the forests and the sparse populated areas of Alaska. Instead of trying to deal with the problems of society, they tried to isolate themselves from the problems. To deaden their futile search for utopia, they turned to the drug culture.

The same mentality has gotten a foothold in the church community, in the sense of attempting to escape the reality of the present world by withdrawing from the world. It is futile to withdraw from the world.

My High School basketball coach kept repeating this statement to the team: “the best defense is an effective offense.” We followed that philosophy and became a winning team.

I am not suggesting that defense posturing is wrong, but I am saying if you develop a defense mentality until it dominates your strategy, the opportunity to gain more ground for the kingdom of God is lost.

Recently, I listened to Oral Roberts describe his vision of something supernatural and spectacular that was on the verge of happening to make the church aware of His soon coming. He kept encouraging the church community to go on the offense throughout the world and complete the great commission. I am in agreement with the vision. Going on the defense or going underground will not get the task completed.

The Maginot Line, an elaborate defensive line along the borders of Italy and Germany, took the nation of France 12 years to build with a workforce of over 200,000 people. It was built between 1929 and 1940 to protect France from her longtime enemy, Germany, and to defend the traditional invasion routes across her eastern frontier. The Maginot Line was built to provide time for the French army to mobilize and to make up for a potentially disastrous shortfall of manpower predicted for the late 1930's. Most of all, it was built to provide a place behind which the French army could hide, a so-called “Great Wall” of France where the nation could feel secure in its doctrine which would become known as the “Maginot Mentality.”

The Maginot Line did not fail France, but the “Maginot mentality” did cause her defeat, as did the refusal of her leaders to acknowledge the coming of modern warfare mobile battles that would be fought with tanks and aircraft. Thus, while France built a modern version of the First World War's Hindenburg Line, Hitler built Panzers tanks and Stuka dive bombers.

The specification of the defenses was very high, with extensive and interconnected bunker complexes for thousands of men; there were 108 main forts at 7 miles intervals, smaller casements between, with over 60 miles of tunnels. The fortifications did not extend through the Ardennes Forest which was believed to be impassable.

The Maginot Line depended primarily on the system of powerful fortress towns and fortified areas,

linked in many places, by heavy underground forts, communicating galleries, pill boxes and artillery emplacements. The Maginot Line was a zone of 10 to 50 miles with miles of pill boxes, forts, some with casemates, living quarters and magazines hundreds of feet underground including hangers, depots and garages.

The military budget during those years was consumed with defensive measures, and little was given to develop any similitude for offensive type weapons. France rested their national security on the Maginot Line.

The World War II German invasion plan of 1940 was designed to deal with the Line. A decoy force sat opposite the Line while a second Army Group cut through the Low Countries of Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as through the Ardennes Forest which lay north of the main French defenses.

Thus the Germans were able to avoid assaulting the Maginot Line directly. The attacking forces of Germany began on May 10<sup>th</sup> and obtained surrender from France by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Maginot Line that took France 12 years to build, a masterful monument of defensive strategy, did not even come into play for the defense of the nation. In the short time of six weeks they were a conquered country.

### **The German strategy of Offense was called Blitzkrieg or lightning war.**

They used the military strategy of using fast-moving tanks, with motorized infantry and artillery supported by dive-bombers, and concentrating on one part of the enemy sector.

Blitzkrieg tactics would drive a breach in enemy defenses, permitting armored tank divisions to penetrate rapidly and roam freely behind enemy lines, causing shock and disorganization among the enemy defenses. German air power prevented the enemy from countering with any kind of effective measures.

By comparing the Maginot Line mentality with the Blitzkrieg mentality, one can easily conclude the superior strategy.

### **Josiah and Blitzkrieg Strategy**

Germany was not the first country to employ a “Blitzkrieg Strategy.” The youthful king of Israel, Josiah, also employed a similar strategy to turn his nation around from pursuing idol worship to the true worship of Jehovah.

When Josiah was 24 years of age, he had a desire to repair the decaying temple built by King Solomon. During this repair, Hilkiah the high priest found the disregarded book of the law, dusted off the scroll and began to read. As he realized the consequences of disobeying God’s law, he quickly notified Shaphan, who was in charge of the project. Shaphan made an appointment with King Josiah to read its content to him. King Josiah, after hearing the words of the Law, tore his clothes in grief and horror.

The portion that must have affected Josiah the most was the list of curses found in Deuteronomy 28-30. He knew the nation was in violation of God’s law and the responsibility of changing the course of the nation was on his shoulders. Immediately he sought godly counsel.

When a person is exposed to the word of God, if there is sin in the heart, it will be revealed. Then it is decision time. He must repent of his sin or ignore the truth and remain in darkness. In the case of Josiah, he ran toward God and not away from Him.

Josiah called the leaders, priests, prophets and the people together, both small and great, and had the

“Words of the book of the covenant” read to them. When the influential people are properly positioned in a nation, a change of direction can be realized.

Possibly standing on the “bronze platform” (2 Chron. 6:13) that Solomon made when he dedicated the temple, Josiah and the people entered into covenant with God. The dimension of the platform was 5 cubits wide, 5 cubits long and 3 cubits high. The number “five” represents the grace of God, therefore Josiah stood on the grace of God even as the indictments of the Law were still ringing in his ears. That is where every believer stands today on the grace of God. The number “three” represents the full manifestation of God. The fullness of God, revealed through Jesus Christ, will keep you safe in His grace.

Josiah, now in covenant relationship with God, initiates “Blitzkrieg” against the entrenched forces of evil. He took bold and aggressive action in tearing down the strongholds of darkness throughout the land, beginning with the temple of the Lord. Judgment begins with the house of God. He cleaned the temple of vessels used in the worship of Baal and burned them in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. “He did away” with the idolatrous priests, and burned “Asherah” at the brook Kidron, ground it to dust, and threw its dust on the graves of the common people. “He also broke down” the houses of the male cult prostitutes and the “high places” of the cult priests.

Josiah “also defiled Topheth” located in the Valley of Hinnom, so that no one could have their daughters “pass through the fire for Molech. Moloch was represented as a huge bronze statue with the head of a bull. The statue was hollow, and inside there burned a fire which colored the Moloch a glowing red. Children were placed on the hands of the statue. Through an ingenious system the hands were raised to the mouth (as if Moloch were eating) and the children fell into the fire where they were consumed by the flames. The people gathered before the Moloch was dancing to the sounds of flutes and tambourines to drown out the screams of the victims. “Topheth” means the beating of the drums. In a short time the land was cleansed of idolatrous worship sites and their attending priests were slaughtered and burned on them.

The nation of Israel changed course. King Josiah re-instituted the Passover Feast—a celebration of being delivered from the slavery of Egypt.

Because Josiah revered the word of God, repented and took “Blitzkrieg” action, he changed the course of his nation.

How can the Christian Community change the direction of our families, cities, states and the nation? Obviously the “Silent majority” has not changed the direction of the USA. Why? It requires the involvement of Christians in seven major spheres of society.

**1. Religion:** a system of beliefs that bind people together, such as Christianity or Islam.

Paul writes this warning: “But realize this that in the last day’s difficult (or perilous) times will come” (2 Tim. 3:1). Then Paul describes the existing society as “lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.” “Holding to a form of godliness” has been identified as being “religious” but without the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christianity in general can be broken down into many church denominations or organizations. The population of the USA is 295,734,134 (July 2005 est.) and it has been estimated that 224,437,959 considers themselves to be Christians. That is 76.5% of the total population, whereas Non-religious

Secular total 38,865,604 or 13.2%. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Agnostic, Atheist and Hinduism combined together total 10,833,087 or 3.6% of the total population. If three quarters of the population are under the category of Christians, why is the government of the USA gravitating into an anti-Christian position? One major reason for the decline is the Church Community has drifted away from the center of God's Word and assimilated much of the belief system of the world. It has grown "lukewarm", passive and ineffective in face of the encroaching evil and danger of our time. It has not sought to preserve and establish the principles of the Scripture in the pillars of our government, such as our forefathers did. The Church Community has lost its identity with many of the truths of the Bible and righteousness has been humiliated in the public place. It is one of name only, but not in practice.

Religion that is pursuing God can effectively influence a government and the direction of the country.

**2. Government and law:** Even as a steering wheel controls the direction of an automobile, so the government steers the direction of a country.

God, determined to preserve the lineage of Abraham, raised up a young man from slavery, prepared him in the hard knocks of society, and installed him in second command of the country of Egypt. From his strategic political position, he was able to save the nation of Israel. Joseph spoke to his brothers this way, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive" (Gen. 50:20). God-placed politicians can change the direction of a country.

Another example is found in the life of Daniel, who from his influential position within the government of Babylon saved the exiles of Israel from death.

On fire, bible based, Holy Spirit filled Christian politicians are needed in our government. The strategy of the church should be to encourage their membership to get involved from our city councils to the legislative branches of the government. The direction of a nation is at stake.

There are many organized prayer groups getting involved in praying for their legislators, and that is good, however above praying for their leaders, there needs to be a serious effort to become a legislator. Christian legislators are needed, who hold the ethics and principles of the Scripture as supreme, and do not fear to express them.

Have you tried to secure the permits necessary to build a church within and without the city limits? In most communities it is a nightmare experience. Excessive requirements, code and non-code, are made upon such projects for the reason of discouragement and financial drain. Those unjust requirements are not for the safety of the people, but designed to stop such projects. Their justifications for such measures are based on revenue being taken from taxable property. Finances have become more important to local governments than having institutions that improve the morals of the people. If there were more Christians serving on the city councils and as county commissioners, that difficulty would be reduced.

**3. Arts and sports:** The vocal anti-Christian "Hollywood Crowd" needs to be infiltrated by more committed Christians who will stand up for Jesus and declare the gospel. The movie and TV industries hold tremendous influence over its viewers and many more outspoken and radical Christians are needed.

Mel Gibson, Christian Film Director and Actor, directed the 2004 blockbuster, The Passion of the Christ. He is very devoted to his faith— Roman Catholic Church.

In spite of the criticism (or perhaps helped by it), the movie grossed \$611,899,420 worldwide (\$370,782,930 in the US alone) and became the eighth highest-grossing film in history. It currently is

10th highest-grossing film and the highest-grossing Rated R film of all time. Despite this, the film went without any significant recognition by the major American film award celebrations. Although it was nominated for Best music (score) Best cinematography; and Best make-up at the 77th Academy Awards.

In one interview Mel Gibson said, "It's pretty simple to me. Jesus was God in human flesh. Born from the Virgin Mary, lived on this earth and died for your sins and mine. He paid the penalty for our sins."

Victoria Jackson, a frequent guest on the Political Incorrect TV program, made this statement on her first appearance, "'I asked if I could be on it because there was no one ever standing up for Jesus' side.'" Although Mr. Maher totally disagreed with most of what Ms. Jackson had to say, she became a regular on the show and turned out to be one of Maher's favorite female guests.

When Mr. Carson suffered a heart attack, Victoria bought a Bible, had his name inscribed on it and sent it to him. Johnny Carson wrote back, "Thank you for the care package. If it doesn't work, I hold you personally responsible."

Victoria used her time on Saturday Night Live to share her faith with her co-workers. She bought the cast members all a cassette-tape version of the Bible one year for Christmas so they could listen to the Word in their cars.

Martin Sheen, the star of television's Emmy-winning, West Wing, said, "I take the Gospel seriously. We have to find God's presence, first of all, in our own brokenness. We have to find it in service. We grow by serving."

Martin Sheen calls himself a radical Catholic. "You know, the essence of the Gospel of Jesus was extremely radical, and that's why they killed Him."

The TV Artist, Martha Williamson, was awarded the American Inspirations Award for 2003. It was because of "her steadfast devotion to living a life pleasing to God, her unwillingness to compromise her strong faith in God for personal success, and her positive and godly influence on television audiences.

Bob Briner, an Emmy Award-winning television producer and president of ProServ Television, lost his battle with cancer in 1999. But before his death, he wrote the book "Roaring Lambs." In Roaring Lambs, Briner focused on matters of the Christian faith as it relates to life at the end of the 20th century, this book urged readers to share their faith not by haranguing others but by being involved and setting a good example.

Kevin D. Hendricks writes in his Real Magazine review of Briner's book Roaring Lambs, "Bob Briner was president of ProServ Television and an Emmy Award-winning producer. He was one of few Christians heavily involved in mainstream television and had a heart for taking his faith wherever he went. He understood that Christianity wasn't simply a Sunday morning commitment. He found ways to take his faith to work and be a roaring example to anyone he came in contact with, from sports professionals to the head of the Sony Corporation. He did simple things, like working hard and spending time with people. And people took notice."

James Kennedy, Pastor of Coral Ridge Ministries, calls on his followers to exercise "godly dominion" over every aspect of human society. At a "Reclaiming America for Christ" conference in February, 2005, Kennedy said: "Our job is to reclaim America for Christ, whatever the cost. As the vice regents

of God, we are to exercise godly dominion and influence over our neighborhoods, our schools, our government, our literature and arts, our sports arenas, our entertainment media, our news media, our scientific endeavors in short, over every aspect and institution of human society. This kind of strong rhetoric frightens the radical left.

**4. Education:** The church needs to infiltrate our entire educational system with vocal, able and persuasive committed Christians. When our children begin their secular education in public schools, as a rule they spend more time with their teachers than with their parents. It is vital that we staff our schools with devote Christians.

Supporting our Christian Schools is one step toward overcoming the problem of atheistic teaching, but realizing that the majority of our students will attend a public school, the additional step to have a strong voice within the halls of our schools is absolutely necessary if we are going to affect the direction of our country.

A Bible College Chancellor recently informed me of a significant decline in enrollment of bible schools. He was alarmed at what was happening.

It would be a wise thing if parents would encourage their high school graduates to attend a bible school one year before going on to a college of their choice. This would help a young student tremendously in dealing with the environment of a College or University.

**5. Business:** From the family owned businesses to the mega-corporations there should be a policy of Christ-centeredness, and the only way that will happen is having Christians involved. It takes money to support the church and its mission in the world, and basically it comes from the working class and the business class.

The “poverty mentality” has discouraged many Christians to avoid going into business, believing that wealth or prosperity will corrupt their lives. This mentality is rooted in false religion, and comes out of the dark ages.

Monasteries in the Middle Ages were based on the rules set down by St. Benedict in the sixth century. The monks became known as Benedictines and took vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to their leaders. They were required to perform manual labor and were forbidden to own property, leave the monastery, or become entangled in the concerns of society.

I am aware of the warnings of Jesus about wealth; however, He had wealthy friends and was largely supported by them in His earthly ministry. Wealth is not evil. Making profit is not evil. It is what you do with it.

The church must encourage their members to enter into the business world, ask God for wisdom, and allow the Holy Spirit to first prosper them spiritually, then physically and finally, materially.

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International has opened up a way for business people to affect this country and the world by allowing the light of Jesus to shine through them, but more must be done to channel the wealth of the world into the true mission of the church.

**6. Media:** The battle for the minds of people is raging and being fought through the medium of books, radio, Television and the internet.

One of the major reasons the direction of this country has gone awry is because the minority has been aggressively pursuing the control of the mass media. While the majority (76.5%) has largely been lethargic, pursuing their own interests and hesitating to leave their comfort zones, key people who advocate agnosticism, the radical left, and a host of “isms” have gained strategic positions in the media world where they can influence people, thus influence the direction of the country.

Christian programming on the Radio and Television is not enough, rather there must be a Herculean effort in penetrating the news media with bible based Christian personnel.

**Family and social welfare:** The spiritual development of the church will not go beyond the spiritual development of the family. Since families make up the membership of the church, the maturity level of the family represents the maturity level of the church.

When the families of the church are in order, then the church can come into order. It is of utmost importance that the leadership of the church develops programs to strengthen the family socially and spiritually. Chaos in family life will produce chaos in church life. Family problems have a way of overflowing into other families of the church. When members of families are inter-connected with one another in Christ-like relationships, they can go through the tough times of life.

Even as churches are made up of individual families, so are cities, states, regions and countries. Influencing families is the starting point of influencing a nation.

Christian Social Workers are needed. Social work is a profession for those with a strong desire to help improve people's lives. Social workers help people function the best way they can in their environment, deal with their relationships, and solve personal and family problems. Social workers often see clients who face a life-threatening disease or a social problem. These problems may include inadequate housing, unemployment, serious illness, disability, or substance abuse. Social workers also assist families that have serious domestic conflicts, including those involving child or spousal abuse.

Social workers are in a strategic position to make a difference in the lives of people going through tough times, so why not populate that particular field with bible based Christians.

When we talk about "winning the cities-nations" or "turning a nation back to God", we are really speaking about bringing God's influence, laws, principles, and kingdom authority into each of these seven spheres of society.

It is the goal of God to transform the cities-nations with the gospel of the Kingdom. "Declare His glory among the nations...for great is the Lord and most worthy of praise...Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations,...the glory due his name" (1 Chron. 16:24-28). This must be the overriding goal of missions.

If our goal is to restore nations to Christ's kingdom, we will win souls and plant churches along the way, but we must not stop until government serves with justice and righteousness, art reflects God's holiness and majesty, schools honor God in all they teach our children, business is conducted in a godly manner, families are led by godly husbands and holy women, a biblical foundation for the nation is established and the media report all of the above.