

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD

(Jerry Fite)

Debilitating infirmities seem to accompany old age, hindering us from doing what we were able to do when young. Even living free from disease, we chronicle differences between our maturing years and our youth. It takes us longer to accomplish daily tasks as we age, and our reflexes seem to react slower. We just don't jump as high or run as fast at 70, as we did when 20.

As much as we resist the affects of time and circumstance on our bodies, there comes a time in our life when it might be rightly said, “*I am too old to...*”. But can this ever be said concerning us spiritually?

The Old Testament luminary, Caleb, reminds us of some spiritual qualities that we are never too old to manifest. He had reached the ripe age of 85 but was not too old to “**wholly**” follow Jehovah (*Joshua 14:8*). At the age of 40, Caleb had “**followed**” Jehovah “**fully**” (*Numbers 14:24*). Rooted in Caleb's spirit was this total commitment to Jehovah to conquer the promised land. Now,

forty years later he is as dedicated to carry out the will of Jehovah as ever. Old age did not dampen his spirit to walk with Jehovah into the fortified cities and drive out even the renown Anakim. Listen to this aged one's resolve: “*It may be that Jehovah will be with me. And I shall drive them out, as Jehovah spake*” (*Joshua 14:12*).

It is discouraging to see men and women who, in their youth, wholly followed Jehovah, but compromise in their later years, and no longer stand foursquare in all the counsel of God. Caleb knew God's will was just as essential to *fully* follow at 85 as it was when he was 40. Truth was just as clear.

We don't see Caleb looking back and musing, “If I did not take such a strong stance against the thinking of my peers and demonstrate less dramatically my sadness in their lack of faith, maybe I would have brought them along to save them from the graveyard of the wilderness. No, Caleb knew at 40 and 85 that it was a matter of wholly following Jehovah, or not following Him at all.

Caleb's words also remind us that we are never too old to **walk by faith**. Caleb, at the age of 40, was promised possession in the land upon which his foot had trodden (*Joshua 14:9*). But he had to wait for 40 years before he received the fulfillment of God's promise. Caleb's trust in the Lord did not diminish as he grew older. He remained strong in his faith toward God, trusting Him to “be with me” as he drives out the inhabitants of the land.

Caleb reminds us also that we are never too old to be **intense for our inheritance**. He says, “*Now therefore give me the hill-country...*” (*Joshua 14:12*). His inheritance was before him, and he is not too old, weak or jaded with life to say give it to me. He has strength and the will to war once more to gain his inheritance.

When we combine the characteristics of wholly following Jehovah and walking by faith throughout our life, then we will probably be passionate for our final reward in Heaven. The closer Heaven draws before our aging eyes, the more we with the spirit of Caleb will want to talk about it, and remain faithful, till we can claim it.