

Glad Tidings

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

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Your 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 60, as we did when we were 20.

As much as we resist the effects 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 his total commitment to Jehovah to conquer the promised land. Now, forty years later

he is as dedicated to carrying 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 renowned, Anakim. Listen to this aged ones' 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, to then compromise and not stand four square for all the counsel of God in their later years. Caleb knew God's will was just as essential to fully follow at 85 (*Joshua 14:10*), as it was when he was 40. Truth is just as clear now as when first revealed.

We do not 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 forty, was promised possession in the land upon which his foot had trodden (*Joshua 14:9*). But he had to wait for forty 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 towards God, trusting Him to “be with me” as he drives out the inhabitants of the land.

Caleb boosts our spiritual energy by reminding us we are never too old to be intense for our inheritance. He says, “*Now therefore give me this hill-country...*” (*Joshua 14:12*). His inheritance was before him, and he is not too old, weak, or jaded with life to say in essence, “give it to me.” He has the 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 all our life, then we will probably be intense 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, so we can actually claim it.