

## A Man of Faith

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

We think of many people in the Bible who had faith. One of my favorite ones is Caleb. He was one of the twelve spies who searched the promised land. He and Joshua were the only ones who urged the people to trust God and to advance and conquer the land. As a result of the people's disobedience these two were the only ones of the twelve to live to enter the promised land. After the forty years wandering in the wilderness he is an older man, but the same man of faith. Look at his words as Israel is taking over the promised land.

"And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. 11. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for

war; both to go out, and to come in. 12. Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said." (Joshua 14:10-12)

I know that I like Caleb and those like him; people who look to God and not at the problems of life; They who praise God and don't complain about everything. The whole nation had feared to enter the promised land because of the people who lived there, some of whom were the sons of Anak, the giants. Now here is not the whole nation of Israel, but Caleb and his family who say, "I will go and take my possession of the land given to me of God."

He could have said, "I'm too old, we are too few, or a host of other so-called 'reasons.' He didn't do this, he wasn't looking at what he could do or not do, he looked in faith at what God could do. I believe that in verse 12 he is saying that if, or since, God is with me, I can win. If you know anything about God,

then you know that He works according to our faith.

In **Matthew 13:58**, "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

Where there is faith, there is blessing, but, where faith is lacking so is the blessing. Caleb had complete faith in God and was a winner because of it. The enemies that the people had feared were real and were still there. Caleb, and everyone else who won victories, faced real challenges and foes. We don't act like they are not there or ignore them. The point is that we are to face them but not to fear them. Our faith is to be in God, not in ourselves.

Caleb is a good example of this. He didn't say, "I will go and defeat these giants because I am strong." He knew that he could win if God was with him. Next, Caleb, was not just a big talker. Someone said once that, "When all is said and done, there is more said than done." If you read on in Joshua you will find that Caleb went on and took the land as he had said. God rewarded his faith with victory. He will be with us, too, if we trust and obey. As the song says, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way."

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# Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

**SALOME:** ONE OF THE BIBLE'S DRAMATIC CHARACTERS, HAS INSPIRED STORIES, PLAYS, BOOKS, OPERAS, AND MORE THAN ONE MOVIE! NUMBERS OF ARTISTS HAVE PAINTED THIS SEDUCTIVE, DESTRUCTIVE YOUNG WOMAN WHOSE DANCE SO ENRaptured KING HEROD THAT HE VOWED, "ASK OF ME WHATSOEVER THOU WILT, AND I WILL GIVE IT THEE." THAT RASH PROMISE COST JOHN THE BAPTIST HIS HEAD WHICH SALOME DEMANDED—AND GOT—ON A PLATTER! BUT...



ALEXANDRE REGNAULT'S PAINTING—SALOME METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

NO ONE KNOWS IF HER NAME WAS SALOME—IN FACT, SHE HAD NO NAME AT ALL! IN THE TWICE-TOLD TALE (MATT. 14:16 FF, MARK 6:22 FF) SHE IS NEVER CALLED ANYTHING EXCEPT "THE GIRL" OR "THE DAUGHTER OF HERODIAS." THE NAME SALOME APPEARS BUT TWICE IN THE BIBLE (MARK 15:40, 16:1) AND DESCRIBES ONE OF THE WOMEN WHO, ALONG WITH MARY MAGDALENE AND MARY MOTHER OF JESUS, WEPT AT THE CRUCIFIXION—HARDLY THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO WOULD DO A SALACIOUS DANCE BEFORE HER STEP-FATHER!

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