

*Wholly Committed*

Joshua 14:6-15

January 3, 2016

1. At the age of 85 years old, Caleb took Hebron and drove out the Anakites in order to receive his promise. Why do you think it becomes easier to become complacent in our faith the older we get? Are there ways to prevent this?
2. The Bible tells us that Caleb was effective because he followed the Lord “whole heartedly.” Pastor Tom mentioned that this phrase refers to the fact that Caleb was committed to keeping himself close to God. What are some common sins that separate us from God? What are some practical ways we can remain close or intimate with God? (*Think of regular spiritual disciplines that you engage in or should engage in*).
3. The first way Caleb demonstrated his wholehearted commitment to God was through his confident faith in God. Read Joshua 14:6-9. Pastor Tom explained that faith is more than just positive thinking or having an optimistic outlook on life. Faith is taking God at his word. Faith is acting on what God says. Read James 2:14-26. What is the connection between faith and actions? What are some ways you have acted on your faith in 2015?
4. The second way that Caleb demonstrated his wholehearted commitment to God was through his enthusiastic optimism. Read Joshua 14:10-11. Not everyone is optimistic. Some people have a negative spirit. How is a critical and negative spirit evidence of our distrust in God? Have you ever battled a negative spirit in yourself or with someone else? How can a negative spirit or critical attitude be damaging to your walk with God?
5. The third way that Caleb demonstrated his wholehearted commitment to God was by welcoming a challenge. Read Joshua 14:12-14. Pastor Tom explained that too often as we get older we say things like: “I’ve served my time or it’s time for someone else to take over.” Have you ever said these things? What are some other excuses we make to avoid following God wholeheartedly? How does Paul encourage Timothy in his statement in 2 Timothy 4:7?
6. Take time to pray with your group. Meditate on how Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly by demonstrating a confident faith, an enthusiastic optimism, and by welcoming a challenge. Read Psalm 77:11-12 aloud. Consider the mighty works of God and allow the Holy Spirit to build your faith for greater confidence in Him in the New Year.