

May 7, 2001

My dear friends,

As I was preparing to go to the hospital to be with my precious friend and his family I heard the voice of my adversary say to me “What can *you* bring to your spiritual father? The Lord reminded me of the spies in the bible in Numbers chapter 13 sent out to scout out the land given and promised to them by the Lord. These men were representing all twelve tribes of Israel. They had been given a promise from God:

**Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so that we may obey it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, “Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?” No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your hearts so that you may obey it.**

**See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess**

**But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.**

**This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now Choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you**

**many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers,  
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Deuteronomy  
30:11-20**

I feel like one of the scouts sent out. I have seen the promise land and the enemy. Through the eyes of faith I know you will have victory. Choosing between life and prosperity and death and destruction is not a difficult task. All twelve scouts had heard the covenant promise of God. They returned carrying the fruit from the promise land on poles between them! Yet ten of them had a bad report. Some, maybe many, will come to you with bad reports but I want to say to you as Caleb did to them, “go up at once and possess it; you are well able to conquer it”. The Amplified Bible has a comment that says, “But God makes all the difference between cowards and Calebs.” I can certainly testify that the huge beautiful fruit God will produce in your life is incredible and will feed those around you for generations to come.

I was so encouraged as I read on in Joshua 14 that Caleb recounted the report he brought back “as it was in his heart”. He said, “But my brethren who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt (with fear); yet I wholly followed the Lord my God.” Moses then promised the land to Caleb and his descendants “because you have wholly followed the Lord my God”. WOW!! I don’t know about you but I personally have a new hero. I want to be like Caleb. One other significant thing Caleb spoke of in this chapter was the fact that he was just as strong as he had been 45 years (he’s now 85) earlier when he was sent to scout out the land. “...as my strength was then, so is my strength NOW FOR WAR and to go out and to come in.” He wanted the highest place in the land, where the giants lived!! It became his inheritance. I cannot help but believe that my strength has been restored for just such a purpose and yours will be also. How much more “lively” should our faith be? What has God brought you through? You now have the authority to speak into the lives of those facing, or in the midst of that trial and say as Caleb’s buddy Joshua said, “Be strong and very courageous”, and wholly (with every part of you) follow the Lord your God.

I Love You  
Jan