

2021

Wow!! What a year 2020 was. It started off pretty much like every other. We all had great hopes and desires for the coming year. There were prophecies and oracles given by many preachers and prophets concerning what the coming year would bring. Some of these leaders have moved on and will again tell us what God will be doing in this upcoming year. To that, I will leave it to the Lord and see what takes place.

Last year, I had written an essay on what I thought the coming year (2020) might have brought to us. I wrote about the children of Israel in the Promised Land and of Joshua and Caleb. We discussed that Joshua and Caleb chose to believe God, go forward and enter the Promised Land. We discussed that that decision was not made at that moment. No, it was made long before that. The decision was inevitable because both of these men, through their lives and lifestyles, *“wholly followed the LORD.”*

We discussed that the Hebrew word translated to the term “wholly” is “male'(mä·lä'),” which is actually a verb – an action word. It means “to be full, filled and satisfied; to be consecrated to; to be armed with; to be accomplished in; to live in abundance with.” Using this definition we saw that the decision to believe God in that very tenuous and historic moment of time was not a quick “off the cuff” decision.

This decision by Joshua and Caleb was “a lifetime and lifestyle” in the making. To Joshua and Caleb, because of their lifestyle of relationship and consecrating themselves and being filled in abundance with God, this “decision” was not even a decision. It was a “no-brainer” for them. They simply believed God.

Why I am bringing this up again? The answer is simple. We must continue to do as Joshua and Caleb did – they continued to simply believe in and trust in their God. As we are well aware of, their belief and trust in the Lord did not start during the difficult time while they were being confronted by the Jewish people as to whether or not to go forward into the Promised Land.

No, it started very early on in their lives and in their journey with the Lord. They started their journey of trusting in the Lord very early on within their lives and it stuck with them. It was a real faith. It was not a “faith” that believed in God during the good times but it was a real faith that believed God even during the difficult times.

Now, here they were. It was a time when most of the Jewish people wanted to stop and go back because it looked as if entering the Promised Land would be a task that they could never achieve. It looked as if it may even have been an impossible task. However, there they were, Joshua and Caleb, all by themselves, believing God’s Word and desiring to run with it. The people were set against them because of what it looked like - impossible.

However, Joshua and Caleb were determined to go into the Promised Land, with or without the others. Well, to make a long story short, we know that Joshua and Caleb were the **ONLY** two in that generation, including Moses, to go into and receive the land that God had promised.

Through this account found within the Bible, we see that it was only those who were living a lifestyle of *“wholly following the Lord”* that God specifically stated would be entering into the “Promised Land.” The only two were Joshua and Caleb. In Numbers 32:12, it tells us this simple walk of faith caused them both to be successful within their lives as they entered God Promised Land. Numbers 32:12 tell us, *“Save **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and **Joshua** the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD.”*

I believe that Joshua and Caleb were a type and shadow of believers entering eternity. However, I also hear God state very clearly that it was because Joshua and Caleb “*wholly followed the Lord*” their **entire lives** once they were freed from the bondage of Egypt. That is what caused them to make the right choices and totally believe God no matter what others said or did. They were not carried away with every “wind and wave” of man’s thinking. There was never a choice for them. It was their life and mindset – God said it and that settled it for them, period.

I believe this year will bring great things that the Lord has desired to bring forth in these end-time days we are living in. What I mean by that is that we will see the great things that **God will bring forth** as He is preparing us to enter into the end of times. It may not look as though great things are happening. We may not even take notice of the things that He is doing. However, when God is in the midst of those things – they are definitely “great things.”

As I have previously noted in many of our discussions, I do not think we are in the last days but I do believe we are in the beginning stages of the end of days. I believe God is allowing and doing things to get those who are truly looking for Him and who are truly seeking Him to do just that – to look for, seek for and receive Him.

As His people we are definitely to call and cry out to Him for our every need. However, as His people, we must also seek after what we can do **unto Him** – as our act of worship. I am quite aware of the fact that God does not need us to do anything for Him. However, I do believe that this is a key for us; that we desire to do things **unto Him**. I definitely know, without a shadow of a doubt, that our God does not need us to do anything for Him. Unfortunately, that does become a problem for many “believers.” Many believers end up sitting around thinking of all the good things God will do for them. We end up becoming, excuse the expression, like “fat cats.”

Yes, God will pour out His blessings upon us. However, that does not mean that we are to sit around and do nothings as children of the most High God. Quite the contrary is true. We must be seeking after Him and desiring to bless His heart with actions towards others of love and mercy. We are to be expressing and exhibiting His love, grace and mercy to others as He has done to us. We must be His hands, His mouth and His feet to those who are in need and to those who do not know Him. Isn’t this what the disciples who became His Apostles did?

As His Apostles, the men that God chose, they became mighty men of God. They may have started out being weak in their faith but they grew and became mighty men of God who ended up changing the world. They did this not by themselves but along with others who came along and believed the truth concerning Jesus and the relationship that God had and still does desire to have with His people. There was a fire that raged across the entire world that ignited even more – Holy Spirit fire.

We are in an hour in which God desires for that to happen again. Actually, He desires it to take place in every age. The question is, are there those, in these days, that have that same heart? Are there those in these days that are filled with that same fire and desire to see that fire spread within the hearts of many throughout this world?

This is vital to the true believer, to the true child of God, in this hour. Unfortunately, there is a move within the Body of Christ to simply sit back and let, or I have heard it said, that we are to allow the Lord bless us. It really has become all about us and what God will do for us. Yes, God will do mighty things on our behalf. However, that must not be our sole purpose of being a child of the King, a child of God. It should be all about Him and blessing Him and magnifying Him and His Name to all those whom we come in contact with. Whatever, we receive should be secondary to us, not primary,

After all, through what Jesus did on the cross and through His resurrection and then His ascension to be with Father – shouldn't that be our primary thought. Ultimately, it must be all about Him. This was the mindset of Joshua and Caleb. They both simply trusted believed and most importantly, served their God.

Some may interject and say that this is Old Testament thinking. No. I believe this is "Bible thinking." This is the way God's Word shows us and tells us that we are to walk and live by and in all the days of our lives. Throughout the New Testament scriptures, we are consistently told how we are to not simply sit back on are salvation. Rather, we are to now act upon our salvation – both within our own lives but most importantly within and to the lives of others. We must get away from always thinking about ourselves.

Yes, Jesus paid it all and did it all. Yes we have been set free and we have been saved. We can now spend eternity with our Father through our believing and accepting all that Jesus did. However, that is not all there is. We are called throughout the New Testament to be His ambassadors to others. We are called to be His witnesses to others. We are called to do His works to others and be His hands, feet and mouth upon this earth. The time is **NOW!!!**

This year may seem to start out a little slow because of the things around us. However, God is always on the move. He is preparing His true believers in this hour. Will they be ready? Will you and I be ready? Will we truly hear His call and His directions in this hour? The time is getting closer and closer to the end and the end times. Actually, they began the moment Jesus ascended into Heaven. The end times began at that very moment of time which means His return can come at any time.

Whenever He does come, will He see those who say they are called by His name sleeping, or will He find them active and doing His will? The answer to that question is found in the hearts and ultimate actions of each one of those who say they are His and who call themselves by His name.

Never forget the heart that we find within Joshua and Caleb. They were men of action, acting upon Gods Word. They didn't listen to the majority. Instead they listen and believed in God and His Word, period. They may have had to wait a while but ultimately, they were the only two of that entire generation that entered into the Promised Land.

Do you and I have that same heart in this hour? Joshua and Caleb did not sit around and wait for things to be given to them by God. They knew what God had already given to them and what was waiting for them and they both went after it with their whole heart, mind and spirit. I pray in this hour that the same can be said for all of those who call themselves God people.

As previously mention, I believe this year will bring great things **that the Lord** has desired to bring forth in these end-time days we are living in. I believe we will see great things that **God will bring forth** as He is preparing us to enter into the end of times. These "great things" may not seem great to those who are looking for different things or in different directions. The fact remains, however. God is doing things **HIS WAY**. Therefore, we can be and must be assured without a shadow of a doubt that this year, as well as in all past years and in all the remaining years until Jesus' return, God will be doing "great things" – definitely.

May the Lord bless you and keep you and your family in this New Year and until Jesus returns.
God bless you, Ray and Trish