

March 6, 2016

FACING LIFE'S CHALLENGES
Making the Most of Your Life
Joshua 14:1-14

The book of Joshua tells the story of the new chapter in the life of God's people Israel. In the excitement of entering a new land filled with possibility was the reality of some serious challenges facing them. The challenges we face today may be different than what Joshua faced, but they are equally as real and daunting. The examples we see in this great book, especially in the life of Joshua's friend Caleb, provide solid life principles for us today.

1. **Tell the story of God's presence in your life.**

"Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, 'You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.'" **Joshua 14:6-8 (NIV)**

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him (Christ) who gives me strength." **Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)**

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect..."
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

"Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." **1 John 5:10-11 (NIV)**

2. **Anchor your life to the word of God.**

"So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.' Now then, just as the Lord promised, He has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time He said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert." **Joshua 14:9-10 (NIV)**

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." **Romans 15:4 (NIV)**

"But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not 'Yes' and 'No.' For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not 'Yes' and 'No,' but in Him it has always been 'Yes.' For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." **2 Cor. 1:18-20 (NIV)**

3. **Take inventory of your life today.**

"So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then." **Joshua 14:10-11 (NIV)**

"I will be your God through all your lifetime, yes, even when your hair is white with age. I made you and I will care for you. I will carry you along and be your Savior." **Isaiah 46:4 (Living)**

righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” **2 Timothy 2:1-2, 22 (NIV)**

“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” **2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)**

4. Establish a God size vision for your future.

“Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as He said.” **Joshua 14:12 (NIV)**

Jesus, today I hear you saying to me _____

“Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be dismayed. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do His will. And I know that I will triumph.” **Isaiah 50:7 (NLT)**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” **Matthew 28:19 (NASB)**

5. Bring others along in your journey of faith.

“Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.” **Joshua 14:13-14 (NIV)**

“For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church.” **1 Corinthians 4:17 (NIV)**

“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue