

## **It Takes Faith**

by Sherry Jones

It takes faith to fulfill the will of God. The children of Israel discovered that God's plan does not happen automatically. For example, after traveling through the wilderness, the children of Israel arrived at the border of the Promised Land and sent twelve spies to search it out. Forty days later, they returned and delivered their report. Caleb and Joshua had a positive response as they addressed Moses and the rest of the congregation. They declared, "We are well able to take the land; let us go up at once." But the other ten members of the group disagreed. They said "There are giants there. There are walled cities and the people are strong. We're like grasshoppers in their sight, and in ours too!" According to the ten spies, the will of God looked impossible because they were considering the obstacles and hindrances that stood in the way.

Circumstances can always appear overwhelming, but as Joshua and Caleb demonstrated, it takes faith to fulfill the will of God. There were three specific things that they did that set them apart from the rest of the spies.

- 1) They refused to consider contrary circumstances. They were not moved by what they saw and they did not become fearful, because they were walking and living by faith. Fear will keep us from doing the will of God, but faith will hold on to the Word of God and bring the power of God on the scene. The scripture says in 1 John 5:4, "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Joshua and Caleb were not moved by their circumstances because they believed God and His Word.
- 2) Joshua and Caleb refused to talk doubt. Real Bible faith is not silent and speaks in line with the Word of God. Faith always has a voice. Remember that *you* have a say in the matter. In Mark, chapter 11, Jesus told His disciples to speak to the mountain. A mountain is anything that stands between you and the will of God for your life. That means that we are to speak to the circumstances or problems that need to be changed. That's what Joshua and Caleb did. They declared in Numbers 14:9, "Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not." Joshua and Caleb spoke faith-filled words.
- 3) Joshua and Caleb refused to act contrary to the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing, but faith *works* when acted upon. Faith is not passive. James said, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:20) Faith *acts* like the Bible is true. Acting in faith will make you stand out in a crowd. That's what happened to Joshua and Caleb. They entered into the Promised Land while the others didn't.

By taking steps of faith, it led Joshua and Caleb into the center of God's will for their lives. They did not doubt and draw back in fear but they believed, acted, and spoke their faith.