

**DATE: 5 FEB 2023 | SPEAKER: PS BEN KC LEE**  
**TOPIC: A DIFFERENT SPIRIT | SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 14:6-13**

## SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Seek to align their hearts, hopes, plans, and actions with God's revealed will
2. Desire to follow God wholeheartedly
3. Trust and believe in God's promises, and allow Him to strengthen their faith through adversity

## SERMON SUMMARY

The first of a four-part vision series titled 'A River Flowing Outwards', Pastor Ben shared lessons we can learn from the life and spirit of Caleb, and how we can follow Caleb's example:

1. Confidence in God's promise
2. Following God wholeheartedly
3. Adversity makes us stronger

## SERMON RECAP

God said that his son Caleb has a different spirit. God's testimony about Caleb gives us insight into the kind of person that causes God to take notice and say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." At 85 years old, Caleb's love for God was still as strong, and he was ready for a fresh new challenge. Caleb requested Joshua to give him the mountain that the Lord had promised him 45 years ago ([Joshua 14:12](#)), as he desired to personally conquer Mount Hebron and the fortified cities.

The mountain mentioned in [Joshua 14:12](#) refers to the mountain that reveals God's purpose and promise. The purpose of a Christian is to finish the unfinished job of the church – to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations ([Matthew 28:19](#)). What's your mountain, spiritually speaking? For some, your mountain could be to see your extended family saved. For others, it could be to serve in a cell group ministry, or to go out into the neighbourhoods or nations to reach the lost and needy. Each of us has a mountain to climb. In 2023, we may feel inadequate to face our mountains. But the giants in 2023 are meant to show us God's strength and power as we trust in Him.

Pastor Ben shared 3 qualities we can learn from the life, spirit and attitude of Caleb:

### 1. Confidence in God's Promise (Joshua 14:6-7)

- Caleb never forgot God's promise and held on to it for 45 years. God made two promises to Caleb as a reward for being one of the two spies who gave a positive report about the Promised Land. First, he would enter the Promised Land, and his descendants would inherit it. Second, he would be given Mount Hebron (Numbers 14:23-24).
- Hebrews 6:11-12 – "We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realised. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised".
- Scripture reveals that the ultimate purpose of Christians is to impact the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We need to align our hearts to the revealed will of God, i.e., to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19).

### 2. Following God Wholeheartedly (Joshua 14:8-9)

- Caleb followed God wholeheartedly. This was his heart's attitude. When others doubted, Caleb believed God. When others compared the giants against themselves, he compared the giants against God.
- Faith and fear have a direct impact on our hearts. We read in Joshua 14:8 that the hearts of the people melted because of fear. But Caleb allowed faith to strengthen his heart.
- Isaiah 40:21-22, 28-29 describes God's omnipotence. Joshua and Caleb saw beyond the giants to the awesome and omnipotent God who was fighting with them and for them.
- Many of our negative emotions are actually surface idols; the root idol is unbelief. Ps Ben encouraged us to proclaim God's truths to our hearts daily so that when we are tempted to give in to fear, we will apply God's truth to our lives.
- In our walk with Jesus, we are often tempted to put one foot in and one foot out. Ps Ben challenged us not to be half-hearted, but to follow God with our whole lives. 1 Peter 2:9 reminds us that as Christians, we are called to be a holy nation and royal priesthood, set apart for God. While some of us may serve *full-time*, all of us must serve God *fully*.

### 3. Adversity Makes us Stronger (Joshua 14:10-12)

- As human beings, we enjoy comfort. But God is more interested in developing our character than in our comfort. Discomfort and pain are part of life and can be used by God to grow us.
- God uses adversity to grow our character and build our faith. He turns difficult times into growth zones.
- Expect to face giants of discouragement. How do we respond when we face these giants? When Caleb faced discouragement and challenges, he was bold and positive (Numbers 14:9). For 45 years, Caleb did not lose his determination.
- Ps Ben encouraged us to fix our eyes on Jesus, and look at the Author and Finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1-2). We have a good Shepherd who goes before us, a wise Guide who has carefully created a trail for us. This trail may not always be easy, but it is the right trail for us and will bring us where we need to go. God tests us because He loves us enough to grow us.

We read from Joshua 2:9 that for 40 years, while God's people were wandering in the wilderness complaining and blaming God, the enemies were actually shaking in fear, as they recognised that God had already given His people their land. As a Church, we must not stay in the wilderness anymore. We must have the spirit of Caleb. Each one of us has a personal mountain to climb. But this mountain is not the end target. Our goal is to have a deeper revelation of the Father.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Ps Ben explained that the mountain mentioned in [Joshua 14:12](#), refers to the mountain that reveals God’s purpose and promise for our lives on earth. Each one of us has a mountain to climb. What is your personal mountain?**

### Leader's Notes

The purpose of the Christian is to finish the unfinished job of the church – to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations ([Matthew 29:18](#)). Leaders can invite members to share their spiritual mountain, or promises they have received from God. These could also be a promise or a vision that they have received but they have yet to see it materialise. For some, it could be to see their extended family saved, or to be witnesses in the market place. For others, it could be to serve in a cell group ministry or to go out into the neighbourhoods or nations to reach the lost and needy, etc.

### Transition

Let us align our hearts, hopes, plans, and actions to God’s revealed will, i.e., to make disciples of all nations. And like Caleb, let us have confidence in God’s promise and “imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised” ([Hebrews 6:11-12](#)).

2. **Caleb held on to God’s promise and followed God wholeheartedly despite 40 years of wandering and waiting for his inheritance. What does it mean for you to follow God wholeheartedly?**

### Leader's Notes

This is a question for members to reflect on Caleb’s attitude and faith, as well as in their own lives. Leaders can ask members to share what they have learnt from Caleb’s life on following God wholeheartedly, and reflect on whether they have indeed followed God wholeheartedly in both their ‘being’, and their ‘doing’.

### Transition

Let us not be half-hearted, but seek to follow God with our whole lives – in both our ‘being’ and ‘doing’ ([Mark 12:30](#)). As disciples, God has called us to make Christ the Centre of our lives and to become more like Him (*being*), and to use our lives and what we do (*doing*) to make disciples of all nations.

3. **We all face giants in our lives. Ps Ben reminds us that God uses adversity to grow our character and strengthen our faith. What are you facing in your life right now that makes you feel like giving up or longing for a shortcut through your trial or pain? How can you continue to be obedient to God and grow in faith amidst your difficulties and trials?**

### Leader's Notes

This is a response question for members to consider to how they will apply the example of Caleb’s life to their own lives, even in the midst of testing and pain. Leaders can encourage members to:

- *Speak God’s truths to their hearts:* Confess and claim God’s promises. God’s Word will align your heart, desires, actions, and plans to His revealed will.
- *Remember God’s faithfulness:* Look back at how far you’ve come and the steps that have brought you to where you stand today.

## Closing

God is the Shepherd we can trust. Like Caleb, let us keep trusting in God's promises, persevere in following Him wholeheartedly, and allow adversity in our lives to strengthen us, so that we can look forward to Him saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

## **PRAYER**

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

### **1. Sermon Application**

- That God will align our hearts, hopes, dreams, plans, and actions to His revealed will, i.e., to make disciples of all nations
- That we will not be half-hearted, but will follow God wholeheartedly with our heart, soul, mind and strength
- For God to give us the resilience and faith to hold on to His promises, even in the midst of adversity

### **2. COVID-19 in Singapore**

- Praise the Lord for the removal of the vaccinated-differentiated measures.
- Pray for God's protection in the midst of a high number of community cases.
- Pray for protection against reinfection and the ill effects that it may bring.

### **3. World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Pray for God's providence as we go through a challenging year.

### **4. Opportunities for Outreach**

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Digital Bulletin: [rlc.sg/bulletin](http://rlc.sg/bulletin)*

### **1. Vision Series – A River Flowing Outwards.**

- 05 FEB – A Different Spirit
- 12 FEB – Being God's Change Agent
- 19 FEB – A Sent People
- 26 FEB – No More Excuses

### **2. Church Calendar Highlights**

- *Quarter 1*
  - Vision 2023 Sermon Series: 5 -26 Feb
  - Bible Equipping - Exodus: 4 & 5 Feb, 11 & 12 Feb
  - Equipping – "Engaging the Holy Spirit" Workshop: 17 & 19 Mar, 24 & 26 Mar
  - Cells Prayer Night #1: 31 Mar
- *Quarter 2*
  - Easter Evangelistic Services: 8-9 Apr
  - Bible Equipping – Acts: 26 & 28 May, 2 & 4 Jun

- Children's Camp: 8-10 Jun
  - Youth Camp: 15-18 Jun
  - Cell Revival Nights (Fridays): 2 – 30 Jun
  - **Quarter 3**
    - Young Adult Camp: 7-9 Jul
    - 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
    - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
    - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
  - **Quarter 4**
    - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
    - Christmas Outreach: Dec
    - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec
3. **Bible Equipping – Exodus: Foreshadowing the Gospel: Encountering the Lord & Saviour.**
    - Session 1 - 4 Feb (Sat), 7-10pm
    - Session 2 - 5 Feb (Sun), 11am – 2.30pm
    - Session 3 - 11 Feb (Sat), 7-10pm
    - Session 4 - 12 Feb (Sun), 11am – 2.30pm
  4. **Alpha Course. 11 Feb – 29 Apr.** Sign Up Link: [rlc.sg/join-alpha](http://rlc.sg/join-alpha).
  5. **RiverLife Prayer Meetings.**
    - **RLC Prayer Room.** Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: [rlc.sg/rpr-watch](http://rlc.sg/rpr-watch))
    - **Wed Night Prayer Meeting.** Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
  6. **RiverLife Kindergarten Recruitment.** RLK is recruiting for the following roles. Link: [oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg](mailto:oileng@riverlifekindergarten.org.sg). Refer to the e-Bulletin for more details.
    - Chinese Teacher
    - Teacher Assistant
  7. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
    - Receive Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/9m](http://rlc.sg/9m)
    - Provide Prayer Support: [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve)
  8. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
  9. **Call for SuperLife Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at [rlc.sg/serve](http://rlc.sg/serve). Immediate needs:
    - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
    - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
  10. **Technical & Production (TAP) Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now

opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at [rlc.sg/serve](https://rlc.sg/serve) or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.

11. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: [rlc.sg/brp](https://rlc.sg/brp)
  - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
  - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
  - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
12. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is [rlc.sg/podcast](https://rlc.sg/podcast) or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
13. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at [rlc.sg/resource](https://rlc.sg/resource). This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
14. **Cradle Roll.** Our Cradle Roll is open from 9am to 10.30am every Sunday for children 24 months and below. *NO booking of tickets is required.*
15. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
16. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at [stories@riverlife.org.sg](mailto:stories@riverlife.org.sg) to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.

## GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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