

MOUNTAIN MOVERS

Not all mountains need to be moved; some need to be taken. We see in Joshua 1 and Jeremiah 1 there are ways to walk in faith. Joshua was a seasoned man/warrior in God, called closer to God after Moses' death. Three times he was commanded to be strong and courageous – he was going to be doing it tough. He'd seen a nation/generation die in disobedience, a nation who would not follow God. Caleb and Joshua were aged men but with no retirement plan. At 85 – as vigorous and with as much passion as 40 with the intention of working significantly for God's purposes to their/our last breath. Caleb reminded God of His promises and knew he would/could take the hill country in God's strength.

Jeremiah 1 – God knew the plans and purposes for Jeremiah before He formed him in the womb. Don't let anyone say you are too young for the purposes of God and don't let it come out of your mouth either. There are some things that should and shouldn't come out of our mouths; God promised Jeremiah He would give him what to say.

Neither end of the spectrum is too hard for God. God's desire is unreasonably passionate and compassionate for everyone and He always has the last word. We can limit Him in our relationship, in our prayer and in what of truth and promises we apply however we are created in Him to do good things that He has predestined for us also to walk in. Ephesians 2:8-10.

The enemy is out to steal, kill and destroy. More than 80,000 people are estimated to be aborted in the womb annually in Australia and the highest rate of suicide in our nation is amongst our men aged 85+. There is always hill country and we can't buy into the devaluation of humanity that our society presents us with. Young, middle or older aged there is always, in God, a plan beyond your/our capabilities because it is about God. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (to do those things that Christ has preordained for me to do, to walk in). Caleb knew he could take the hill country at 85, with God's strength. With God, all things are possible.

Mark 11:23: *'Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.'* In context, Jesus was teaching them that all things are possible with God.

Some mountains are to be cherished. Some spoken to, and some taken. The hill country is sweet but is also harder to fence and muster. Caleb was promised the hill country; the rough portion, the difficult portion where the giants and fortified cities were. Joshua 14:7-8: *'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, ⁸ but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.'*

Mountain Movers are identifiable:

1. They have a different attitude: Caleb and Joshua followed God wholeheartedly: they had a different spirit, another attitude, a can do attitude, a sound mind, the same mind as Christ. They were odd, misfits – they had different vision – saw things differently. 12 spies, 2 saw the potential; two saw what could be done with God. Without this sort of vision, people cast of restraint – give up, settle down, settle out. And the caution remains – what do we see? What does God see in the same thing? What does He ask us to see?
2. They walk differently: people with vision have a different gait. When we know what is right and we walk it out, apply it there is a boldness and purpose in our step.

Numbers 13:30: *'Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.'*

3. They talk differently: Joshua and Caleb pleaded with those around them because they knew God had offered them so much.

Numbers 14:5-10: *'Then Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. ⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. ⁸ If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the*

*land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”
¹⁰ But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.’*

Joshua 14:10-12a 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 wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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.’

Caleb knew God had promised it. It was his.

Some mountains need to be spoken too. Some mountains need to be moved. Some mountains need to stay. See the story of Sandy & Kari Jobe.

Each of us have opportunities to take mountains. We are called to more than we can imagine and God is able to do exceedingly more than we can imagine, Ephesians 3:20. We are called to more, to the impossible, to change the world as we know it – why? God is with us.