

Resolved: Common People/Uncommon Courage

Caleb

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.
(1 Cor. 16:13-14)

Caleb: the courage to finish well...

*They gave Moses this account...the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there...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."
(Num. 13:27, 28, 30)*

A good finish is the fruit of godly commitments along the way...

- ***A commitment to walk by faith over fear*** – “Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes and said to the entire Israelite assembly, ‘The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 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...Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.’” **(Num. 14:6-8, 9)**
- ***A commitment to obey God’s Word over popular opinion***– “But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.” **(Num. 14:24)**

*“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.” **(Josh. 14:7b-8)***

- ***A commitment to serve God over early “retirement”*** – “‘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. 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)**

*The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools. Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions. **(Eccl. 7:8-10)***

A commitment to keep your eyes on the Great Finisher...

*When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. **(John 19:30)***

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
(Heb. 12:2)*