

CALEB, THE GREAT HEART

²⁴ One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵ A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:24-25

¹⁶ And Caleb said, "I will give my daughter Aksah in marriage to the man who attacks and captures Kiriath Sepher." ¹⁷ Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, took it; so Caleb gave his daughter Aksah to him in marriage. ¹⁸ One day when she came to Othniel, she urged him to ask her father for a field. When she got off her donkey, Caleb asked her, "What can I do for you?" ¹⁹ She replied, "Do me a special favor. Since you have given me land in the Negev, give me also springs of water." So Caleb gave her the upper and lower springs.

Joshua 15:16-19

³⁵ "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Acts 20:35

³⁸ "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

I. Caleb was the incarnation of generosity.

- A. Caleb knew God and so was the soul of generosity.
- B. Caleb had an open hand and scattered.
- C. Caleb was the antidote to the closed, iron fist of hoarding.
- D. Caleb had a different spirit and understood the paradoxes of the kingdom.

* Exaltation through humility. (James 4:10)

¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

* Strength through weakness. (II Corinthians 12:10)

¹⁰ That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

* Receiving through giving. (Acts 20:35)

³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

* Freedom through servitude. (Romans 6:18)

¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

* Gaining through losing. (Philippians 3:7,8)

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

* Living through dying. (John 12:24)

²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

* Finding through losing. (Matthew 10:39)

³⁹ Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

II. When God reigns, it pours.

- A. Caleb gave away his dream achievement. When your dreams come true, don't hang on so tight that you'll never let go. Greed is not merely caring about money and possessions, but caring too much about them.
- B. Don't be tight fisted, even the fruit of your dreams belong to Him.
- C. Riches give neither security (Proverbs 18:10,11) nor identity. (Proverbs 13:7) Giving to get is greed.
[Pro 18:10-11 NIV] ¹⁰ *The name of the LORD is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.* ¹¹ *The wealth of the rich is their fortified city; they imagine it a wall too high to scale.*
[Pro 13:7 AMP] ⁷ *There is one who pretends to be rich, yet has nothing at all;*
Another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.
- D. Caleb was willing to share responsibility and work with a younger man.
- E. Caleb had no desire to be overlord. How rare that an older person will lay down his work, or even share it.

- F. The entire inheritance that had kept Caleb alive for over 50 years was given away entirely.
- G. The giving away of your dream will bring you more joy than its fulfillment ever can.