

## FAITH FOR TOMORROW

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1 John 5:13-15; Joshua 14:6-14

What is your attitude about the future? There are two ways to face the future: In fear: Everything seems to be falling apart.

The world has never been more dangerous. What possible good can the future hold for our children and grandchildren? Social Security is going belly up.

Medicare cuts mean no more health care. I'll lose my job any day. We worry about our family, friends, finances—and a hundred other things.

Is this you? Your attitude about the future affects how you live in the present. Fear of the future means you are living in uncertainty today.

Or you can face tomorrow in faith. The Bible says that, “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline” (2 Tim. 1:7).

Trust your tomorrows and your future to God. When you trust your future to God, most likely you are living today in the same way. If you have faith for tomorrow you probably have faith for today.

### 1. God's promise.

1 John 5:13-15(NIV) 13I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. 14This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. Note three things:

The first thing we see is that John is writing to us who believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God—Christians. The second thing we see is God's promise of eternal life.

When John wrote these words false teachers were causing some believers to question their faith. He's writing to strengthen those believers who might be tempted to doubt the reality of their Christian experience.

He is not writing to the deceivers, and he is not writing to try to persuade unbelievers of the truth of the Christian faith. This is God's precious promise to believers.

When you believed in Jesus Christ—you were forgiven completely and saved completely. Eternal life is yours. You can know it and you can claim it.

To believe in Jesus is to have Jesus. To have Jesus is to have His life. To have His life is to have eternal life.

On the other hand, if you don't believe in Jesus you do not have His life. Not to have His life means you don't have eternal life.

A believer's future is secure—we have God's promise. Our faith covers our todays and tomorrows.

The third thing we see is the confidence we have when we pray. <sup>14</sup>This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

My children sometimes had to get my attention away from the book, TV, or paper I was reading. With God, simply pray according to his will, and He responds.

There was a man named Caleb who lived his life with full confidence in God. He lived with the assurance of God's love and promises. You find him in Joshua 14:6-13.

The Children of Israel had wandered forty years in the wilderness. Now they're ready to cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

Moses had died; Joshua was the new leader. You might remember that Caleb and Joshua were two of the 12 spies 40 years earlier.

Only Joshua and Caleb believed God would deliver the land into their hands. And because they trusted God, they were the only two of their generation allowed into the Promised Land.

Joshua 14:6-14(NIV) 6Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. 7I 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, 8but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. 9So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’ 10“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 desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11I 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. 12Now 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.” 13Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. 14So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

Caleb loved God, trusted His promise, and trusted Him with his tomorrows. It’s a great lesson for us—love God, and trust His promise and with your tomorrows.

Eternal life is today, and tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that, until we go home to heaven. This is the life we lead and live until we go to our eternal home.

Jesus is your forever Savior right now. He is present with you right now—and tomorrow and the day after. Live your life in light of eternity (v. 13). Your inheritance is waiting.

Your relationship with God and the assurance of spending forever after with Him should make a great difference in your character today—in who you are.

People with godly character—the assurance they belong to God’s family forever—find the greatest fulfillment in life.

They look back over their lives and know they have lived honestly and with integrity. They are concerned about those who will come after them—they want to leave behind a legacy of a life well-lived.

Notice the actions of Caleb because of his faith in God and God’s promises.

## 2. Caleb faced the future with assurance.

Caleb knew exactly what he wanted. He didn't come to Joshua with some vague offer. He specifically said that he was willing to do whatever it would take to conquer the mountain country.

When he said, "give me this mountain. . ." he made it totally clear to all Israel that he was claiming a specific promise and possession.

James, Jesus' brother, said, (Jas 4:2) "You do not have, because you do not ask God." (Ye have not because ye ask not (KJV))

Jesus told us, (John 16:24) "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

According to God's will, make your requests known and be specific. If you have a need, identify it, and tell it to God. Be bold in your requests. Pray in His will and for His glory and honor.

## 3. Caleb focused on the promise (v. 14)

Caleb had to wait 40 years for the fulfillment of the promise Moses had made to him. Yet he never lost sight of what he was promised.

He knew the promise would be fulfilled because he knew the one who made it. A promise is only as good as the word of the one who makes it.

We have Christ's promise that He will be with us forevermore. We have the promise of His daily presence, strength, and guidance. This should make all believers people of character.

## 4. Caleb never stopped believing (vv. 8-9, 14)

Three times in the 14th chapter of Joshua we read that Caleb followed the Lord God wholeheartedly. This gives us a keen insight into his character. He was a deeply committed individual.

During the 40 years wandering in the desert he watched an entire adult generation die off. He and Joshua were the only exceptions. Yet, he never lost confidence in the promise God had made to him.

The Bible reminds us that “without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Heb. 11:6). Men and women of great faith have always been willing to believe God for the impossible simply because He said it was so.

What are you trusting God for in your life? What kind of faith will our church family demonstrate this year?

## 5. Caleb claimed his reward (vv. 13-14)

Caleb was given the mountain country by the promise of God. It was his inheritance to claim, but he still had to take hold of the possession personally.

Suppose someone left you a million dollars in an inheritance. All the legal papers were signed and the money was guaranteed. It was deposited in a bank in your name. What a great inheritance.

But it wouldn't become your inheritance until you went to the bank, withdrew the money, and made use of it yourself.

Don't be one of those who haven't taken a hold of their godly possessions. Determine to discover God's divine will. Pray and act accordingly. Remember, God is not limited by our limitations.

You will become a Caleb in your own sphere of influence, because making a difference in the world is what life is all really all about.

The world of our friends, our family, or the society in which we live is part of our God-given responsibility.

Now listen, as you face tomorrow, live your life in light of God's plan and purpose. Discover that you count for something, and that you can make a difference.

God has promised that, regardless of the problems and difficulties that may lie ahead, He will use you for His glory.

### Application:

Once you come to grips with the purpose of God for your life in light of eternity, you'll never be the same again. You'll face the future in faith and confidence, in the assurance of God's promises.