

MOVING AHEAD TOGETHER WITH
A WINNING MINDSET

STUDY SEVEN

Age: Your Ticket to Adventure

Joshua 14:6–14

This is my credo: “Since every day is a gift from God, I will live each one enthusiastically for Him.”

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

SUPPOSE you didn't know your birth date, so you wouldn't know your age. Someone might ask you how old you are, and you'd pick whatever age you felt like! Think how freeing it would be to not be locked into a number. Milestones such as fifty or sixty or even eighty would be meaningless. You wouldn't think, *I just turned 65. I guess it's time to trade in my office chair for an easy chair.* Why should age dictate what people must or must not do?

Paul urged Timothy, “Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young” (1 Timothy 4:12). He could have also written: “Don't let anyone think less of your because you are *old!*” In other words, if God has called a person to do something, then he or she shouldn't let age get in the way—whether young or old.

Age can either be a label defining your limits or a ticket giving access to new adventures. It's all in your mindset.

This *Searching the Scriptures* study considers the account of Caleb. At age 85, he asked Joshua to allocate to him prime mountain territory occupied by Anakim—giant-sized people living in giant-walled cities. Caleb believed that, *with God*, he could drive them out and claim his piece of the promised land. Now that's a winning mindset!



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

Ask the Lord to open your eyes to new territory that you might have considered out-of-bounds because of your age.

Father, is it possible that my attitude about age has been holding me back? If so, Lord, cast a vision that stretches me beyond my limits and that forces me to depend on You . . . which is what I long for. Grow my faith through Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In the previous study, we examined the Israelites' conquest of two major cities in the central region of Canaan: Ai and Bethel (Joshua 8:1–29). Before advancing further, Joshua drove a spiritual stake in the ground. At Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, he led the people in renewing their covenant with God by reciting the laws God gave Moses (Joshua 8:30–35). Now the people were spiritually ready to take the rest of the land.

Refer to the chart on [Joshua](#) to see where we are in the flow of the book. [Joshua 9](#) wraps up the central campaign with the peace treaty between the Israelites and the Gibeonites. [Joshua 10](#) chronicles the conquest of territory in the south; [Joshua 11](#), the conquest of territory in the north; and [Joshua 12](#), the conquest of territory east of the Jordan.

At this halfway point in the book, the emphasis shifts from *conquering the enemy* to *dividing the spoil*. In [Joshua 13](#), Joshua allots land to Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh on the east side of the Jordan River. But before Joshua and his officials could begin allotting land on the west side of the Jordan, a group of men from Judah led by 85-year-old Caleb stepped forward to stake their claim.



Observation: Caleb's Bold Claim

Caleb's statement to Joshua included two parts: *recounting* God's promise ([Joshua 14:6–9](#)) and *requesting* Joshua fulfill that promise ([14:10–12](#)). Joshua *responded* in [14:13–14](#). As you observe the details of these sections, notice the repetition regarding Caleb's spiritual commitment, as well as the description of Caleb's character.



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Caleb Recounts God's Promise—Joshua 14:6–9

In *Joshua 14:6–9*, Caleb recounted the events when Moses attempted to lead the Israelites into the promised land from the south. Write down your observations.

Find Kadesh-barnea in your Bible maps or the online map, “*Exodus from Egypt*,” and review the account of the twelve spies and their report in *Numbers 13*. Ten of the spies cowered in terror, but Caleb and Joshua stood tall in faith. How did they express their confidence in God in *14:6–9*?

Caleb and Joshua were urging the people to *move ahead together with a winning mindset*, but fear consumed the people's confidence. So, the Lord said to that faithless generation, “They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors” (*14:23*). In contrast, what did the Lord promise Caleb in *14:24*?



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Live each day not dreading it but anticipating what God will do through you. That was Caleb. That was his ticket to adventure. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Caleb Makes His Request—Joshua 14:10–12

What do you observe in Caleb’s statement in *Joshua 14:10–12*?

When he was a young 40-year-old, Caleb hiked that hill country. Forty-five years later he could still taste the grapes that hung in clusters so heavy two men had to carry them on a pole. His eyes flashed with passionate determination: “Give me the hill country that the LORD promised me” (14:12).

What qualities do you admire in Caleb?

Caleb took on life regardless of his age. Let me assure you: it isn’t your age that’s important. It’s your attitude. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Joshua 14:6–14

Joshua's Response—Joshua 14:13–14

What did Joshua say to Caleb, according to *Joshua 14:13–14*?

Hebron is higher in elevation than Jerusalem, and just as elevated in spiritual significance. What made Hebron a holy place based on Abraham's experience there in *Genesis 13:14–18*?

Who was buried near Hebron, according to *49:29–32* and *50:12–13*?

Caleb thoroughly followed the Lord his God. When Joshua dispatched Caleb, Caleb didn't wait around. He took on the giants and the hill country. His timeless confidence set him up for what the Lord wanted from him. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Joshua 14:6–14



Interpretation: What It Means to “Wholeheartedly” Follow the Lord

Caleb’s courage and determination in his old age became legendary. He drove out not just one group of descendants of the feared giants but three groups: “the descendants of Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the sons of Anak” (Joshua 15:14). And yet, Caleb slayed giants not because of his physical strength but his resolute faith—the same faith David displayed when he felled Goliath.

Compare the description of Caleb’s heart toward God in *Joshua 14:8–9, 14* with the description of David’s in *1 Kings 14:8* and *Acts 13:22*. What do these descriptions mean?

We marvel at 85-year-old Caleb’s self-confidence and determination—“Give me the hill country” (Joshua 14:12). The true source of his strength, however, was his God-confidence and devotion. What insight into Caleb’s heart do the following verses reveal?

Numbers 14:23–24: _____

Numbers 32:11–12: _____

Deuteronomy 1:35–36: _____



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Joshua 14:6–14

What principles can you draw from the connection between Caleb’s lifelong heart toward God and his positive attitude in his old age?

You will find as you get older that you will get colder regarding the Lord if you don’t do something about it. Keep the heat of your devotion on. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Beware Going through the Motions

Jesus confronted the Pharisees for dousing the fire of their devotion with cold, heartless religious duty. What warning about spiritual apathy do you see in Jesus’ rebuke of the Pharisees in *Matthew 15:7–9*?

Even Solomon, as wise and devoted as he was in his younger years, let the world sway his heart. What happened to him, according to *1 Kings 11:5–6*?



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How can we keep a Caleb-like devotion burning brightly even in our older years? Let's explore some answers as we apply our study.



Application: Eight Dos and Don'ts to Keep Your Devotion Fire Lit

Here's a checklist for wholehearted devotion that anyone at any age can practice.

- 1) *Stay tight with the Lord . . . don't drift away.*
- 2) *Pay close attention to His Word . . . don't doubt it.*
- 3) *Pray fervently and often . . . don't skip one day.*
- 4) *Refuse to tolerate fear . . . don't give it an inch.*
- 5) *Risk reaching out . . . don't stay isolated.*
- 6) *Keep having fun . . . don't be a grouch.*
- 7) *Add praise to your day . . . don't stop singing.*
- 8) *Ignore your age . . . don't forget Caleb.*

Bring this list before the Lord and ask Him to highlight one point on which to focus. Be creative in how you apply it. For example, try singing praises in your car. Add a dash of fun to family mealtimes. Contact a friend you haven't spoken to in a long time. Memorize a Bible verse and repeat it through the day. What might the Lord be leading you to do today?



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Copy this list on a card and tape it to your refrigerator or the visor of your car. Keep it as a reminder of Caleb and his lifelong, wholehearted devotion to God.

What hill might the Lord be leading you to climb?

Caleb may have been a giant-slayer, but his real legacy lies in his giant-sized faith. Don't let people think less of you because you are young . . . or old. And if they do, ignore them! God's adventures await those who dare to step out in faith and climb.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, only You know what tomorrow brings. Guard me from fear of the “giants in the land.” Keep my eyes and my heart focused on Your goodness and grace. Like a shepherd, You can lead me, and my greatest joy is trusting You and going when You say go. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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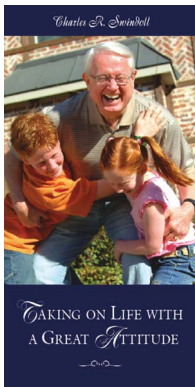
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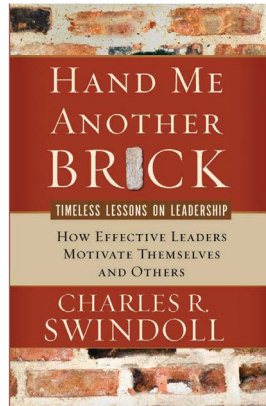
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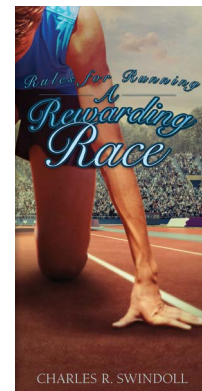
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For the 2023 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages.



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