

11-20-22 MESSAGE
PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED
DON'T WONDER IN THE WILDERNESS FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

Intro: This is the time of the year that we call the Christmas Season.. the world calls it the Holiday season. For most people, it is a happy time of the year. Now we don't know when Jesus was born, but it is the time of the year that most people choose to celebrate his birth and even thinking on Jesus produces some good no matter how accurate the date of his birth is or is not.

I think of one proclamation that was made by the angels when Jesus came to this world. When Jesus was born the angels proclaimed..

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

In my life this time of the year brings great memories and warm and fuzzy feelings. It all starts with the Holiday we call Thanksgiving. We celebrate Thanksgiving, this Thursday and then Friday is the biggest retail day of the year. The reason why is because the schools are closed and many people use that day as a day to get some early Christmas shopping done.

About 1/3 of all retailers income comes during the months of November and December. So I can assure you retailers love this time of the year.

So this time of the year we celebrate, Thanksgiving, then Christmas, and then we close out the year with New Years celebration. I was saved October 27th 1974 and then in November of 1974 I went to Church with Midge and Hank Accardi and Elaine Accardi, who I married about 9 months latter. That was an exciting time in my life when I was learning Scripture, and experiencing the joy of coming to know the Lord and experiencing so many blessings. So that was a great time of learning. After the Holiday season, came a New Year and that New Years was not just a New Calendar year for me ... it was a New Spiritual Year for me. It was the start of a new journey, a new life. So this time of the year brings good memories for me.

The Lord had a New Year celebration for his people Israel. It was suppose to be a joyous celebration also. It was when the Nation Israel came out of Egypt and their exodus from Egypt was suppose to be their New Year.

The Lord told Moses the day of the first Passover:

Exodus 12:2 This month [shall be] unto you the beginning of months: it [shall be] the first month of the year to you.

So when God brought his people out of Egypt that was suppose to be a great day of celebration. It was a marvelous holiday for his people. It was a picture of salvation.

When I got saved, God brought victory after victory in my life and it has been a great journey. I would not trade what the Lord has done for me these many years for anything.

However, for a lot of people they do not experience these spiritual victories. In fact for the nation Israel after they left Egypt things did not go very well for them.

The Apostle Paul warns that their spiritual failures are a warning to all of us.

Paul wrote:

I Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now this is a warning. The truth is each New Year brings great memories of spiritual blessings. However for some it does not. I would to God you have experienced great spiritual blessings in your life, but the failures of Israel were given to us to learn what not to do.

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Now I could call this message OVER THROWN IN THE WILDERNESS.. But I have chosen to call it Pardoned but not blessed. I will explain why as we get into the message.

PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED

Scripture Reading Story:

Story:

As you know the history of Israel is a great history. God promised Abraham that he would become a mighty nation. He had a son by the name of Isaac who had a son by the name of Jacob who had 12 sons who went down in Egypt in a time of famine. They prospered there and grew into a nation and in the time of Moses God brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

He parted the Red Sea for them, he feed them with Manna in the wilderness, and provided water out of a rock for them. He taught them his law. He appeared to them in a cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. Time would not permit to tell all that he did for them.

There was a time of organizing before the children of Israel were ready to go into the promise land. It took about 2 years for Israel to get organized to prepare to go into the land. During that time they received the law, built the tabernacle, organized into armies, and then sent 12 spies into the land to bring back a report.

This is where we read...

Numbers 13:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Numbers **13:2** *Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan,* which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

Numbers 13:3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men [were] heads of the children of Israel.

Now of the 12 spies who went out to spy the land, only two came back with a positive report. Those were Joshua and Caleb. The other 10 came back with all kind of negative things. All kind of reasons they were not going to succeed.

THEY BROUGHT BACK AN EVIL REPORT:

Numbers 13:32 *And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, [is] a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it [are] men of a great stature.*

Numbers 13:33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, [which come] of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

They Wept all Night..

Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

Now all this was the culmination of 2 years of constant griping and complaining. Finally the Lord had enough and wanted to disinherit these people..

This is where we read

THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE

Numbers 14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

Numbers 14:12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Numbers 14:13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear [it], (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

Numbers 14:19 **Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people** according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Numbers 14:20 **And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:**

Numbers 14:21 But [as] truly [as] I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

Numbers 14:22 **Because all those men** which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and **have not hearkened to my voice;**

Numbers 14:23 **Surely they shall not see the land** which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Numbers 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Pardoned But Not Blessed

Intro: We are facing a grave danger in the church of Jesus Christ today.. there is a trend.. to be content with being saved alone and not blessed. Many despise:

Holiness.

Flaunt disobedience..

Lackadaisical attitude towards standards.. of godliness..

THE ATTITUDE OF THE DAY IS TO RECIEVE PARDON FOR SINS.. BUT NOT GO ON AND RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS PROMISED:

Threefold command of the commission given to the church..

GO TEACH ALL NATIONS.. PREACH THE GOSPEL..

BAPTIZE

TEACH

In the Old Covenant.. there was a threefold.. commission given to Moses..

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- 1. Bring the people out of Egypt.**
 - 2. Pass Over towards the promise land by way of the Red sea.. by way of the wilderness**
 - 3. And then enter into the promise land..**

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1. **Coming out of Egypt picture of Salvation..**
 2. **Going through the red sea into the wilderness.. is a picture of Baptism and Church membership**
 3. **Entering into the promised land is a picture of Victorious Christian life..**
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The Majority of people in Christendom.. today.. emphasize only one part of the commission Christ gave to us.. that is Salvation and the forgiveness and Mercy of God..

The Mercy of God His salvation is no doubt a great thing.. and it is the start of everything..

In fact.. the Lord.. told Israel they were to start their New Year based on their Exodus from Egypt..

Exodus 12:2 This month [shall be] unto you the beginning of months: it [shall be] the first month of the year to you.

Salvation is where it all starts...

Salvation is where we become his people..

Salvation is when we come out of this Satanic.. system

Salvation is when we are freed up from the bondage of sin.. that has taken us captive..

New life.. comes when we experience our Exodus from Spiritual Egypt..

With a mighty hand .. Jesus defeated that Pharaoh that was over us..

Then we were baptized and added to his church..

This is pictured ... in passing through the Red Sea..

Lest you think I am making this all up let us read..

Paul writes about this..

I Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

I Corinthians 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

I Corinthians 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

I Corinthians 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

I Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

I Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

I Corinthians 10:7 Neither be ye idolaters, as [were] some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

I Corinthians 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

I Corinthians 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

I Corinthians 10:10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

I Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

I Corinthians 10:12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

God looked at the entering into the promise land as entering into his rest..

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Hebrews 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Hebrews 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in [their] heart; and they have not known my ways.

Hebrews 3:11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

Hebrews 3:19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left [us] of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard [it].

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh [day] on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

Salvation.. Pictured in the Passover Feast.. which occurred the first month of Jewish Calendar..

Passing through the Red sea is a picture of our Baptism

I Corinthians 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

The Feast of Tabernacles Is a Picture of Entering into the promise land of Rest..

But on the seventh Month of the Jewish Calendar was the greatest feast of all .. it was to be the Feast of Tabernacles.. I say it is the greatest because.. it is the one feast that the Lord will require all nations to honor and participate in in the Millennial Kingdom..

Zechariah 14:17 And it shall be, [that] whoso will not come up of [all] the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain.

Zechariah 14:18 And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that [have] no [rain]; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Why is these feast so important to the Lord..

The reason it is so important.. is because of this..

WHY DID GOD BRING THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT?

Did he bring them through the wilderness to die in the desert?

WHY DID HE BRING THEM THROUGH THE RED SEA?

Did he bring them through the red sea to wonder for 40 years in the wilderness..

WHY DID HE LEAD THEM THROUGH THE WILDERNESS.. TO THE PROMISE LAND?

He did all this to bring them into the promised land.. so they could experience the blessings.. He promised them..

He did not bring them all that way to die in the wilderness..

NOW HERE IS THE MESSAGE.. PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED:

Numbers 14:19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

Numbers 14:20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

Numbers 14:21 But [as] truly [as] I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Numbers 14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Here was a group of people who were pardoned but not blessed!

Why .. because they could not believe God for the blessings..
they would not trust God for his blessings.. they murmured and complained..
and sinned away any opportunity for that blessing

I. TO BE PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED IS TO BE SAVED OUT OF SPIRITUAL EGYPT BUT FAIL TO BELIEVE GOD TO TAKE YOU TO THE NEXT STEP OF SANCTIFICATION

God did not just save you to let your carcass.. die in the wilderness.. but the majority of people who profess Christ.. never experience sanctification:

Here were a group of people who God led by the hand.. through the wilderness.. experienced his supernatural power.. and yet.. they still would not trust God.. and obey God..

They were stiff necked..

They were stubborn..

They would not listen and trust him ..

They came to that one last obstacle (Kadesh-barnea).. and would not believe God to go over the promise land..

Kadesh-barnea was the door to the promise land..

II. TO BE PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED IS TO WANDER AIMLESSLY IN YOUR LIFE

God does not want you to wonder aimlessly...

When God says go.. you need to go..

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

When God speaks to your heart... respond.. listen.. obey..

Tells you to give: Step out and give..

Tells you to witness: Witness

Tells you to serve: Serve..

Only one life.. don't waste it..

III. TO BE PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED IS TO FAIL TO DO THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE

In the wilderness.. God fed the children of Israel
In the wilderness.. God still led the people
In the wilderness.. They were still his people..
In the wilderness.. they still experienced his miracles..

BUT THIS WAS NOT GOD'S PERFECT WILL FOR THEM:

As we sin.. and sin and sin.. we become less usable for God..
We are pardoned but not blessed.

God said:

Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

IV. TO BE PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED IS TO FAIL TO FINISH THE RACE THAT GOD HAD FOR YOU IN THIS LIFE

Verse: Concerning victorious living..

I Corinthians 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Context..

I Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
I Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:

Set your sights... to the end of your race.. not the middle..

So many of us.. set goals.. for what we want to achieve in this life..

Spiritual goals transcend this life.. You're not finished till you're finished.. No spiritual retirement on this side of the Jordan..

***V. TO BE PARDONED BUT NOT BLESSED IS TO DIE IN THIS STATE...
Their carcasses fell in the wilderness...***

Sad how so many Christians become unfruitful towards the end of their lives..
As the days draw closer to the end.. we need to be more faithful ..

People so often give up serving God as they get older..
As the days draw nearer for eternity.. you ought to get busier for God..

So many use that those latter years to travel (but not for God).. do things that matter little for eternity.

We need more people like Caleb.. at 85 he said.. GIVE ME THAT MOUNTAIN!

Invitation:

Why did God save you.. not just to bring you out of Spiritual Egypt.
He saved you to bless your life.. will you believe him to take you into the promise land.

Notice how we quote just verse eight of Ephesians 2 and leave out verse 10!

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Children of Israel cried out at Kadesh-barnea .. THERE ARE GIANTS IN THE LAND! There are all these giants keeping me .. from achieving the promises of blessing they said, yet the real Giant is an invisible GIANT!

THE REAL SPIRITUAL GIANT IS YOUR UNBELIEF!

God wants you to experience victorious Christian living..

The only thing keeping you from defeating those giants is you unwillingness to trust God.. This is the real Giant!

SO IT WAS WITH ISRAEL.. THE COULD NOT BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT!

PARDONED.. BUT NOT BLESSED..

God is merciful and kind.. longsuffering.. he will forgive our sins..
But after we sin.. we may forfeit the blessings he had for us..

This should put some fear into the hearts of those who think they can just go ahead and live any way they want because they are saved..

To be pardoned but not blessed is to live a life where you forfeit the blessings God has for you because of your unbelief. It is to wonder aimlessly in the wilderness of this life

without spiritual purpose. It is to let your unbelief hinder you from going on to the next level of this spiritual journey God has for you.

I Corinthians 10:5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

I Corinthians 10:6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

I had a musician friend that professed Christ about the same time that I did. His name was George Vanhorn. He even became a deacon at the Langhorn Terrace Baptist Church where I was baptized. I went on to Bible college and he stayed in the church and became a deacon and seemed to be doing good. Then something happened and I don't know what. While I was in Bible college I went home to see my family and there was a funeral that I went to and I went to the house of the family after the funeral. I saw George at the house sitting there with a group of friends outside of the house smoking cigarettes and drinking beer. George had a beer in his hand.

I shook his hand and asked him how things were. George said to me, tell people it is no better going back into the world after you're saved than it was before your were saved. In other words he admitted he was in a backslidden state. He was a living example of a person who was wandering in the wilderness.. Pardoned but not blessed. In fact I just was goggling my buddy's name and found out he died October of 2021 .. he was 74 years old.

I think he may have come back to then Lord after that because in his obituary I read that he said of himself that:

I'm a musician, artist, carpenter, architect, great-granddad and most important, a Christian

I am glad George came back to the Lord in his latter years but by his own profession the last time I say him in his own words he asked me to tell people don't go back into the world after your saved, it will not be any better than it was before you got saved.

I see a lot of people that are content to be saved, they are content to know they are a Christian. However, they also are content not to be living a victorious life and receiving all the blessings they could from the Lord.

To receive the blessings you need to be obedient to the Lord. You need to be living a life in harmony with His word.

This life it too short to live it wondering around in the wilderness.

Let's move forward for the Lord not in circles.

Let's go into the promise land with Joshua, and not living a defeated life in the wilderness..

Can God bless you if you refuse to move forward and do what he tells you to do?

Can God bless your disobedience to his word.

What is God telling you to do? Do it.. Move forward.. Don't be stubborn.. Don't live in disbelief. Trust him keep moving forward in your Christian life. Be consistent.. Be diligent in the faith.

PART II
**HOW CAN WE BE DIFFERENT THAN THE CROWD
HOW CAN WE BE BLESSED OF GOD
EVENING SERVICE 11-20-22**

Numbers 14:21 But [as] truly [as] I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Numbers 14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Numbers 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

I. We need a different spirit...

What is it to have a different spirit?

1. The Average Spirit is what is called the spirit of a man:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

I Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

I Corinthians 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

These are the thoughts and the intents of the heart...

Most men's thoughts and intents are:

Selfish,
Self motivated
Seeking their own advantage and welfare first..
Evil, intents, wicked devices.. etc..

The spies went into the promise land.. and instead of seeing the land for the promises God gave them.. they saw all the obstacles.. and problems..

This is typical of men.. they are always looking at the darker side of things, griping complaining..

Amazing.. how you pick up and can discern a bad spirit.. in people..

Went to hear a preacher at a friends church.. got there a little late.. good crowd.. Old Members of Church.. had to park a little far.. gripped about the way people parked..

Most people come to church with man's spirit and not God's spirit..

Selfish,
Self motivated
Seeking there own advantage and welfare first..
Evil, intents, wicked devices.. etc..

You can pick that up..

The preacher mentioned how in many other countries people will walk for miles to come to church, they will sit for 5 hours, attend a 3 hour service, but not in America..

Sitting in front of church most people sit in the back... to get out quicker..

Could tell people are fidgety.. want to leave... MAN'S SPIRIT..

Why is it we can sit in a baseball stadium or football stadium... or concert hall for hours, but cannot endure hours of preaching? We have man's spirit...

Why is it we can stay awake when we eat but not when we pray?
Why is it that we can get excited about playing a game.. but not witnessing?
Why is it that we can get excited about watching a movie but not reading our Bibles?

We know what it is to have the spirit of a man...

We can talk for hours about things that interest us.....
But when we get on the subject of the God our conversation is really short..

MAN'S SPIRIT

2. WE NEED A DIFFERENT SPIRIT IS WE ARE GOING TO EXPERIENCE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD

God is looking for people who have a different spirit to bless..

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

God is looking for some people to bless.. and those people are people who have a different spirit.. and a different mind... People who are looking for the truth.. People who have a different spirit..

God is seeking such people to draw them to himself... Will you be one of those people?

A Caleb and a Joshua.. **THEY HAD A DIFFERENT SPIRIT!**

These were more noble.... they wanted to worship God in Spirit and in Truth..

They were not base..
They were not self centered..
They were not seeking their own..
They were more noble...

In fact they represented their tribes when they went out to spy the land..

Caleb was from the tribe of Judah
Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim..

These two tribes latter were magnified above the others.. and ruled over the others...

3. WE MUST RECEIVE THIS SPIRIT AS A GIFT FROM GOD:

I Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

I Corinthians 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

It is through prayer.. and spiritual activity that we receive the spirit of God..

Luke 11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if [he ask] a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

By nature.. we are no different than the Multitude that perished in the wilderness.. There were only two of the twelve spies that had another Spirit.. that was Caleb and Joshua..

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

II. WE NEED TO FOLLOW THE LORD FULLY:

There are very few people that whole heartily follow the Lord..

Paul said of Timothy

Philippians 2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

Philippians 2:20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

Philippians 2:21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

One of Moody's great sayings.. which he borrowed from a British Evangelist Henry Varley

"The world has yet to see what God can do with a man fully consecrated to him. By God's help, I aim to be that man."

III. Application and Illustrations:

As a preacher.. you can usually tell when people have a bad Spirit.. You can also tell when there is a good spirit..

Joshua 14:7 Forty years old [was] I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as [it was] in mine heart.

Joshua 14:8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

Joshua 14:9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

Joshua 14:10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while [the children of]

Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I [am] this day fourscore and five years old.

Joshua 14:11 As yet I [am as] strong this day as [I was] in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength [was] then, even so [is] my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

Joshua 14:12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims [were] there, and [that] the cities [were] great [and] fenced: if so be the LORD [will be] with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

Joshua 14:13 And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance.

Some people .. just give up.. cease working for God..

Never finish their course..

Give up.. working for God..

Others are like Caleb.. will serve God till their last breath

What is the reason for it.. it is because they have a different spirit.

It is because they wholly follow the Lord..

I can think of some great servants of the Lord who served God till their last breath...

Men I knew like Carl Shanosk.. Selwyn Schmidt.. Jack McKeeby

Will you be one these?