Possessing The Land

Intro: God gave a land promise to Abraham and his descendants; Gen. 12:1 “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee;”; Gen. 15:18 “In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.” Abraham’s children went to Egypt to escape a great famine in the land. The Egyptians finally subjugated the children of Abraham. They cried to God who sent Moses to deliver them from bondage. God brought them out of Egypt to the promised land. They sent 12 spies into the land. Ten of the spies came back with a report that they could not take the land. This report stirred up the people and brings us to our text; Num. 13:30 “And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” In this lesson I want us to learn some lessons from what Caleb said.

I. Let Us

A. Salvation is an individual matter.
   1. Ten of the spies brought back an evil report.
   2. The people believed the report of the ten.
   3. Joshua and Caleb brought a good report in spite of the ten.
   4. Salvation is individual for us.
      a. Obedience is individual.
         (1) Heb. 3:12 “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”
         (2) Each step of the salvation process is individual.
         (3) Worship is an individual matter.
         (4) Living the Christian life is individual.
      b. Judgment is individual.
         (1) 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
         (2) Rev. 20:12 “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

B. Yet, we should work together.
   1. 1 Cor. 3:9 “For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”
   2. 2 Cor. 6:1 “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

II. At Once

A. We must not delay our salvation.
   1. 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
   2. Heb. 3:15 “While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”
   3. Salvation is to precious to delay.
B. Things might happen preventing our acceptance.
   1. Might become hardened by sin; Eph. 4:19 “19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”
   2. He might lose control of his reasoning power.
   3. He might die.

C. Salvation is to precious to lose.
   1. We see its value in what it cost; Christ’s death upon the cross.
   2. Mat. 16:26 “26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

III. Possess The Land
A. Take the land which God gave them.
   1. The land of Canaan.
      a. The land was given to Israel by God’s grace.
      b. However, they still had to go in and possess the land.
      c. Thus, we observe the merging of grace and works.
   2. Salvation is a gift of God.
      a. Eph. 2:8 “8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
      b. Tit. 2:11 “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,”

B. Work we must do.
   1. They had to go into the land, fight the battles, take the land.
   2. We must do what God teaches us to inherit salvation.
      a. Believe; John 14:1 “1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
      b. Repent; Acts 17:30 “30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:”
      c. Confess their faith; Rom. 10:10 “10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
      d. Baptized; Mark 16:15-16 “15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
      e. Live faithful to the end; Mat. 10:22 “22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

C. We will receive the land (reward).
   1. 1 Pet. 1:3-5 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”
   2. 1 Tim. 6:19 “19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

IV. We are able to overcome.
A. There will be obstacles.
   1. There will be false teachers and doctrines.
2. We will face discouragement, persecution, and ostracism.
3. We will have trials, pain, suffering, etc.

B. **We can overcome.**
   1. Rev. 3:21 “21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
   2. Paul did; 2 Tim. 4:7-8 “7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

C. **We are able to overcome because God is with us.**
   1. Mat. 28:20 “20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   2. Heb. 13:5-6 “5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”

Conclusion: We, likewise can possess the land, if we only will.