

TRUTH & LIGHT

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GIVE ME THIS HILL

A recent article in The Washington Post read, “Watch 102- and 100-year-old runners set world records, you lazy slugs.” Julia “Hurricane” Hawkins, who is 102 years old set a world record for the 60-meter dash in the women’s 100-plus age competition at the USA Track and Field Masters Indoor Championships in Landover, Md. At the same event, Orville Rogers, 100, set a record in the 60 for men in the 100-plus age group. Pretty impressive! Reading about these athletes taking on great challenges even in their old age makes me think about the inspiring example Caleb sets for all of us at the young age of 85 in Joshua 14.

“Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold,

I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken,” Josh. 14:10-12.

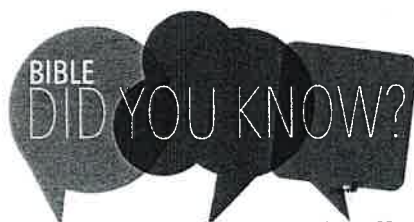
Not only did Caleb refuse to look at old age as an easy excuse to “slow down” in regards to putting his strong faith in God to work in active service, but he even gives a challenge to the younger “whipper snappers” around him to put their trust in God and step up to follow his lead. *“And Caleb said, ‘The one who attacks Kiriath-sepher and*

captures it, I will even give him my daughter Achsah for a wife.' Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it; so he gave him his daughter Achsah for a wife," Judges 1:12-13. I realize that not everyone is able to be as physically capable in their 80's as Caleb was or these two senior runners in their 100's. But even so, there is something to be said about the advantages those who are older have over the younger when it comes to the spiritual work needing done in the Kingdom. *"The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair," Prov. 20:29.* What truly impresses us about Caleb as an 85 year old man is not that he felt physically able to go out to war against one of the toughest areas to conquest, but that his faith was so strong he had no doubt that it was only because God would be with him that he would be successful. This is one area where age should have no bearing on how strong one is able to be. When young men may have the youthful energy and endurance that the aged may be lacking to tackle physically demanding work, it is the tried and endured much older servant of God who should be overshadowing and outworking the younger in the exercising of their faith and

leadership. The marks of age in the gray hair carry with it the markings of what composes great faith for the Christian from their years of service: patience, wisdom, long-suffering, endurance, knowledge, trust. When one possesses these solid traits their faith is equipped more than ever for the necessary work in the Kingdom of God. Yet they only come through time and age and sadly, just when they become fully peaked and ready to be used, many who have reached the age where they now possess these qualities feel ready to slow down and somewhat "retire" in the faith making way for the younger to put their energy to work. This is inexcusable especially in the area of teaching. The scriptures make it clear that the necessary traits of knowledge and understanding that are gained and refined through the passing of time and experience automatically qualifies one to be put into the role of teaching. ***For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an***

infant. But **solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil,** Heb. 5:12-14. It was time and experience which prompted the writer of Hebrews to admonish those who had been serving the Lord for some time to realize it was essentially inexcusable for them not to be useful teachers. If it was because of lack of development on to more mature subject matter in their knowledge, this was to be immediately remedied by going back to feeding on the more elementary principles and were to be shamefully rebuked for needing to do so. As he says, the more mature levels of understanding and knowledge which naturally equipped and qualified one to be able to teach others were only available to those who given the privilege of time and experience had put their developing knowledge to practice and became better trained in their faith. With such knowledge and understanding comes the responsibility to put it to good use in the Kingdom helping those younger learn the fundamental aspects of faith building needed to go on to maturity. "**Older women likewise are to be...teaching what is good,** so that they may encourage the young women..." Titus 2:3,4. In much the same

way, older men are expected to demonstrate the solid foundation of traits of faith which the younger are still learning to achieve. "**Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance,**" Titus 2:2. In this way, they are naturally expected to be given the right of way in instruction as the younger are expected to be respectfully submissive in their interaction with the older. "**You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders,**" 1 Peter 5:5. How can the young be subject to the old when the aged faithful are not taking the initiative to speak to, teach, preach, admonish or lead the younger? Let the example of Caleb encourage you to look to the Lord for the strength and courage to set the bar high in what you are willing to do in service in the Kingdom and be willing to challenge the younger to step up and keep up!
– Daniel Ruegg



"From my distress I called upon the LORD; the LORD answered me and set me in a large place. The LORD is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"
Psalm 118:5-6

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. A fool rejects his father's _____, but he who regards reproof is sensible.

- a) Love
- b) Discipline
- c) Watch
- d) Money

2. The _____ of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

- a) Singing
- b) Work
- c) Sacrifice
- d) Laughter

3. Without _____, plans are frustrated, but with many counselors they succeed.

- a) Muscle
- b) Intuition
- c) Commitment
- d) Consultation

4. The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the _____.

- a) Widow
- b) Rich
- c) Prudent
- d) Cautious

5. He who neglects discipline despises himself, But He who listens to reproof acquires _____.

- a) Bruises
- b) Understanding
- c) Pain
- d) Honor

6. All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the _____.

- a) Outcome
- b) Effort
- c) Balance
- d) Motives

7. When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his _____ to be at peace with him.

- a) Enemies
- b) Friends
- c) Family
- d) Livestock

8. A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of _____.

- a) Years
- b) Learning
- c) Diligence
- d) Righteousness

9. The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests _____.

- a) Faithfulness
- b) Hearts
- c) Sinners
- d) Strength

10. He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who _____.

- a) Procrastinates
- b) Quits
- c) Sleeps
- d) Destroys

- 1) B, Reference: Prov. 15:5
2) C, Reference: Prov. 15:8
3) D, Reference: Prov. 15:22
4) A, Reference: Prov. 15:25
5) B, Reference: Prov. 15:32
6) D, Reference: Prov. 16:2
7) A, Prov. 16:7
8) D, Prov. 16:31
9) B, Prov. 17:3
10) D, Prov. 18:9