

CHANGING WANDERERS INTO WORSHIPERS

From the Exodus to the Promised Land

The Secret: An Attitude of Fortitude

Joshua 14:6–14

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

STUDY



LET'S BEGIN HERE

Spend decades working for full-time pay . . . enjoy your last years in full-time play. Sadly, many believe this lie, adopt it as their attitude, and pledge allegiance to it as their purpose. But many find their enthusiasm waning, especially in their final years, because that pervading creed leaves them empty. We exist for more than *all* work or *all* play.

Today, we'll study the life of an 85-year-old man, Caleb, whose faith in God gave him a higher purpose and transformed his attitude. From Joshua 14, Chuck Swindoll shows us what it takes to have that abiding enthusiasm that lasts into our final days.



YOUR TURN IN THE SCRIPTURES

In Rahab's story (Joshua 2), we saw a Canaanite prostitute display faith in God and become a covenant member of Israel. In Achan's story (Joshua 7), the last study, we saw a covenant member of Israel trivialize God's instructions and receive God's sweeping judgment. Afterward, in chapters 8–12, God used Joshua and the Israelites to conquer the kings of Canaan. Then, God allotted the land. Joshua 13 recalls the distributions across the Jordan River to Rueben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. The allocations in the promised land began with the tribe of Judah, specifically with Caleb.

Before we dive into God's Word, take time to pray, asking God to bless your study, grow your understanding of His ways, and shape your attitude.

Quotable

It isn't age that bothers us; it's the lack of enthusiasm regarding life that grieves us.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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Preparing to Distribute Joshua 14:1–5	
 Observation	 Interpretation
<p>1a. In <i>Joshua 14:1–5</i>, who oversaw the allotting of land to the nine and a half tribes?</p>	<p>2a. What theological significance did the presence of the priest Eleazar and the use of lots hold for the distribution?</p>
<p>1b. By what means would these leaders allot the land?</p>	<p>2b. Using your resources, record why God did not apportion the Levites' territory.</p>
<p>1c. What tribe did not receive territory?</p>	<p>2c. What truth(s) do we learn about God in this passage?</p>

After the Israelites' seven battle-filled years in Canaan, God began preparing them to be wanderers no more.



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Caleb's Past Joshua 14:6–9	
 Observation	 Interpretation
1a. Where do the events of <i>Joshua 14:6–9</i> take place?	2a. Why is the Israelites' location important? (Hint: use your Bible dictionary.)
1b. What past event did Caleb recall to Joshua?	2b. In what way did Caleb display faithfulness to God? (Review <i>Numbers 13:25–33</i> if needed.)
1c. What did Moses promise Caleb and why?	

No doubt the two veterans shared a deep connection as they remembered what had happened nearly forty-five years prior. Now wrinkled but not weary, their faith remained firm in God.



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S15
3

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Caleb's Request Joshua 14:10–14	
 Observation	 Interpretation
<p>1a. How did Caleb describe himself in <i>Joshua 14:10–14</i>?</p>	<p>2a. How did Caleb's self-description testify to God's faithfulness?</p>
<p>1b. What did Caleb ask for, and how did Joshua respond?</p>	<p>2b. In what way did Caleb express confidence in God and display his understanding of God's purpose for his life? How did this give him an attitude of fortitude?</p>

Forget your age. Promise yourself and promise me right now that you'll never mention your age. . . . Age means nothing! —Chuck Swindoll



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SEARCHING
THE
SCRIPTURES

STUDY



Correlation

Again and again, we hear that Caleb faithfully followed the Lord (Numbers 14:24; 32:12; Deuteronomy 1:36; Joshua 14:9, 14). In fact, God told Moses, “But my servant Caleb has a different attitude than the others have” (Numbers 14:24).

Caleb persevered in his walk with God because he remained confident in God’s provision. He didn’t waver. He stayed focused and knew the goal. With an attitude of fortitude, Caleb received God’s promise.

A similar theme surfaces in the New Testament. The book of Revelation records Jesus’ urgent letters to seven churches exhorting them to refocus and persevere so they can inherit His promises. Below, take a moment to read the letter to each of these churches. Then, write a single-sentence summary of Jesus’ call to faithfulness as well as His unique promise to each church.

Church	Call	Promise
Ephesus Revelation 2:1–7		
Smyrna Revelation 2:8–11		
Pergamum Revelation 2:12–17		
Thyatira Revelation 2:18–29		
Sardis Revelation 3:1–6		
Philadelphia Revelation 3:7–13		
Laodicea Revelation 3:14–22		

Jesus tailored each promise with each church’s unique call to persevere. *What bliss awaits God’s people in eternity!*



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S15
5

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STUDY



Application

Have you let a poisonous attitude creep into your heart? Have you become too focused on the improbable, life's messiness, or even your own guilt? Fight it! Don't let it make its home in you. You are a child of God Most High.

Consider your season of life. Can you think of any attitude changes that would help you follow the Lord wholeheartedly like Caleb? Do you need to change your focus in any way? Jot down your notes below.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. (1 Corinthians 15:58)



A FINAL PRAYER

Now, Lord, do a deep work within our hearts. Help us to come to terms with attitudes that have been anchors. Forgive us for the sour responses that we have been participating in and encouraging in others. Give us eyes of faith to see beyond the facts and figures. Open us to a whole world of possibilities because You are the God of the impossible. —Chuck Swindoll.



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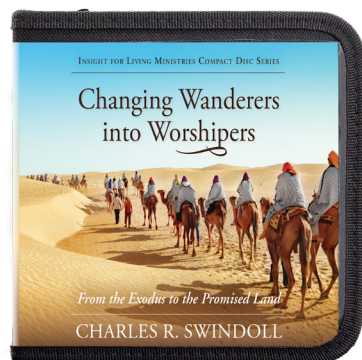
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SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

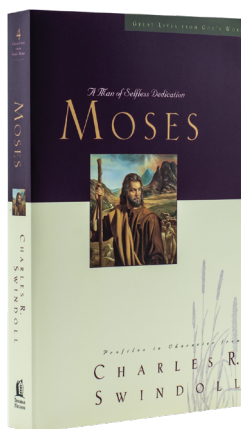
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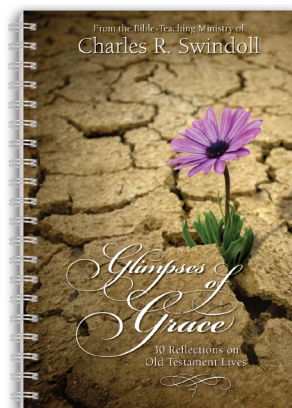
Tools for Digging Deeper



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For the 2018–2019 broadcast, this *Searching the Scriptures* study was developed by Aaron Massey in collaboration with Bryce Klabunde, executive 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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S15
7