

# Living Word *Christian Church*

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## What's Happening at LWCC

- September 11 and 25 – Sing! Global Music Conference viewing
- September 11 – Usher meeting after service
- September 18 - Question and Answer with Pastor Brad
- September 25 - Mission Sunday with guest speaker Pastor Del Penner
- October 2 – Leadership Enrichment Course “The Marks of a Leader”

**Philippians 2:14**  
*“Do everything  
without grumbling or  
arguing”*

# Pastor's Corner

## What is Your God Like? (Part Two)

By Pastor Brad

The Jewish people had been on the march, conquering their enemies and settling into the land God had promised them. In one scene Caleb asks for his inheritance and in this scene we get a glimpse of what God is like.

*Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; yet I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land won which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.' And now, behold, the LORD has kept me alive, just as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, while Israel walked in the wilderness. And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out just as the LORD said." Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel. Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba. (Arba was the greatest man among the Anakim.) And the land had rest from war. (Joshua 14:6-15)*

The first thing I observe from this scene is that God is trustworthy. Many of Caleb's contemporaries were fearful when it came to entering enemy territory to conquer the land. They did not trust God, but Caleb did. Caleb knew that God knew what to do. Even if he wrestled with some internal fear, he would not hesitate to enter enemy territory if that is what God told him to do. Caleb's God could be trusted. So Caleb followed and obeyed God wholeheartedly. Those who did not trust God and obey him died along the way. But Caleb lived to be rewarded with his inheritance.

The second thing I observe is that God is faithful. God promised Caleb an inheritance and he kept Caleb alive long enough to receive that inheritance. But not only did God keep Caleb alive, he kept Caleb vigorous. God did not abandon Caleb in the later years of his life. God made sure that, even with advancing age, Caleb remained active and productive. God remained faithful to Caleb, helping, blessing and strengthening Caleb. Even at age 85 Caleb had more "fight" in him, more energy to do what God wanted him to do.

When I lived in Richmond, my wife and I, along with our children would conduct a service in the long-term care facility at the hospital once every month. Following one of the services as we visited with the people, one resident said about another resident, "Did you know she's 98 years old and she can still read and write?" And Minnie responded, somewhat indignantly, "Well, I went to school, didn't I?!" What Minnie was communicating was that just because she was getting older did not mean she was now incompetent or unproductive. Caleb was getting older, but he was still strong and willing to serve God. God had been faithful and would continue to be faithful to him. God had never let Caleb down, and Caleb would not let God down. "I'm still strong. I can still fight. Where's the enemy? I'm ready to go out into the battle."

The final thing I observe from this scene is that God is able. The only obstacle to Caleb receiving and enjoying his inheritance was a tribe of people call the Anakim. This tribe was a seemingly huge obstacle. The Anakim were giants, tall, strong, powerful, well-armed and well-fortified. Victory against them seemed impossible.

But was it? Consider the following fable. One day the animals and insects organized a football game. Somehow the teams were divided according to size. All the large animals, including the bears, lions, elephants, and giraffes were on one team. Rabbits, squirrels, gophers and insects formed the other team. The game got off to a lopsided start. At the end of the first quarter, the large animals were leading 56 – 0. By half-time, their lead had expanded to 119 – 0. The small animals and insects had produced little offensive yardage. They were unable to make a single tackle.

As the second half started, the lion received the kickoff on the 25 yard line. He was tackled on the 37 yard line. On first down, the bear ran up the middle with the ball. He was stopped at the line of scrimmage, for no gain. On the next play the cheetah attempted to run around the end. He was tackled for a one yard loss. The cheetah looked around at the bottom of the pile and saw a centipede smiling back at him. He looked at the centipede and said, “This is the first time I’ve been tackled all day. Did you tackle me?”

“Sure did. I also tackled the lion and the bear.” Later in the huddle, one of his rabbit teammates asked, “Where were you the first half of the game when we failed to make a single tackle?” The centipede replied, “I was tying my shoes!”

Sometimes in life we face seemingly impossible tasks or obstacles. Sometimes in life the help we need seems slow in coming. But come it does, so do not give up hope or become discouraged. God will always show up, against all odds, to ensure a victory. It is true that his timing is not always synchronized to our timing. But God is able to win or succeed against even the largest obstacles. God was able to help Caleb win against the Anakim and the land had rest from war. Caleb never underestimated or doubted that God was able to give him the necessary help to succeed at doing what God wanted him to do.

Caleb’s God was trustworthy, faithful, and able. What is your God like? Like Caleb’s God, my God is trustworthy, faithful, and able. What is your God like? My God can help me face any obstacles or any giants in my life. My God can give me direction in life. My God can bring me victories. My God can bring me to a land or to an experience of peace and rest. My God is trustworthy. My God is faithful. My God is able. What is your God like?

## Men’s and Women’s Ministry Events

If you missed out on these events, don’t worry! Get connected and join the fun!



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