



4 Things God Wants You to Know

Joshua 14:10-14

(Message from Dr. Perry Hancock of the LBCH)

God has big, big plans for your life.

The significance of Caleb's life was connected to God's plan for his life. From his testimony of faith as a young man spying out the Land of Promise to the faithfulness of his testimony of faith as he wandered in the wilderness for almost 40 years with the people of Israel, Caleb's life was defined by one thing that was more significant than everything else: Faith! Caleb's faith in the Lord aligned his life to God's plan for his life. What an amazing thought! The people of God who follow the Lord by faith are living out God's plan for their lives, which is always connected to God's work of redemption in this world. The Lord used the apostle Paul to communicate this truth in a powerful way in Ephesians 2:10, which states "for we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

1. Biblically, how do we define "big, big plans?" How do we measure significance in God's work? Use Scripture to think about this in a way that's faithful with God's Word and not with the definition of "big plans" by the world's standards.
2. From the New Testament, what do we know about God's big plans for our lives as followers of Jesus Christ who are the church? Find some verses that make the will of God (plans of God) clear in the New Testament letters?

God is not going to tell you what his plans for your life are all at one time.

When Caleb stood before Moses and God's people and urged the Israelites to trust the Lord in entering into the Promised Land, he didn't know that he'd end up wandering in the wilderness outside the Promised Land for almost 40 years. When the Lord consigned Israel to wandering in the wilderness until the faithless generation had

passed away, Caleb didn't know what those 40 years held or what would happen when the second generation finally got the chance to enter into the Land. God's plan for Caleb's life included promises, but it lacked a lot of the details. Caleb didn't know the entire plan for his life, but he knew one thing: Every day God's plan for Caleb was for Caleb to follow the Lord in faith.

1. What is the importance of faith in living out God's plan for your life? Why? Can you defend your answer with Scripture?
2. What is the importance of others (the Israelites for Caleb; the church for you and me today) in living out God's plan for your life? Why? Can you defend your answer with Scripture?

God has been preparing you all your life for what he wants you to do now.

Wandering in the wilderness for 40 years may seem like a waste to many, but God used that time to raise up a new generation of leaders like Caleb and Joshua and to mature a new generation of Israelites who would be ready for the conquest. It was the strength and maturity of Caleb's and Joshua's faith – forged in the fire of adversity through the years of wandering in the wilderness – that provided the foundation of leadership needed to advance the tribes of Israel into the battleground of their Promised Land and to the inheritance that they had been promised. There's nothing wasted in God's economy, and this was certainly true in Caleb's life. God had prepared him his entire life for what he wanted him to do at that critical time in his life.

1. In what ways have you seen God use past experiences in your life to prepare you for what he called you to do at a later time in life?
2. What is God calling you to do right now? Share, and pray for one another.

If you will follow God's plan for your life he will bless you and use you.

Caleb's faith led to his faithfulness to the Lord, which led to the Lord using Caleb in his work in this world and blessing Caleb for his work for the Lord. This was true in Caleb's life. It was true in Joshua's life. It was true in Moses' life. It was true in Abraham's life. It is still true in our lives today! If you will follow God's plan for your life he will bless you and use you.

1. In what ways have you seen God use you in his work in this world? In what ways do you see God using others in your small group? Share, and encourage one another.

2. What are the blessings of being used in God's work? How have you/are you experiencing those blessings? Share, and praise the Lord together!