

Live Right, Finish Well!

Joshua 14:7-14 (NIV)

I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions,⁸ but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.'

¹⁰ "Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said."

¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. ¹⁴ So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

1. I WANT TO FINISH WELL BY SERVING GOD WITH MY WHOLE HEART.

v. 8b "...I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly."

v. 14 "So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly."

Examples of those who wholeheartedly served God

- **David**

1 Kings 14:8 (NIV)

I tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you, but you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commands and followed me with all his heart, doing only what was right in my eyes.

- **Hezekiah**

Isaiah 38:3 (NIV)

"Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

- **Paul**

Romans 1:9 (NIV)

God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you.

- I cannot afford to serve God half-heartedly.
- When I give everything I have in service to God, we live life with no regrets.
- There is no such thing as being partially dedicated.

2. I WANT TO FINISH LIFE STILL MAKING A CONTRIBUTION.

v. 10b-11 "...So here I am today, eighty-five years old! I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then."

- I will never be too old to be used by God.
- God always gives me the strength to accomplish His assignments.
- I must always be ready for what God has for me next.

3. I WANT TO FINISH MY WORK WITH DREAMS LEFT OVER.

"I don't want to achieve **immortality** through my work, I want to achieve it through not dying." - Woody Allen

v. 12a "Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day."

- When my dreams of the future die, so do I.
- I must always look for what God has for me to do next.
- I keep pressing on with God's plans for me in order to finish well.

Philippians 3:12-14 (CEV)

I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. ¹³My friends, I don't feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. ¹⁴I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize that God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.