不一样的心志

我的恩典足够你用,因为我的能力使人的软弱之处变得完美。——哥林多后书 12:9

嗨,孩子们!看看下面这张图,你知道这是什么吗?这是一面攀岩墙。你能猜到它有多高吗?是5米吗?10米?哦,这面墙的高度可是超过15米呦。哇,想象一下,爬上那么高的地方 会是什么感觉?会紧张,对吧?!那到底是什么给了这些攀岩者勇气爬上这么高的墙呢?如果他 们在半途上累了,怎么办?或者他们的扣子脱落而下跌,那不是很危险吗?



再看下面的图片,看到这些攀爬者身上的安全装备和绳索了吗?每一位攀爬者向上爬的时候,在他/她底部都会有另一个人紧紧抓住安全绳,守护着他们的安全。这个人被称为攀岩守护员。守护员的工作就是密切观察攀登者,确保他/她有足够的绳子爬到顶端,必要时,他还会把持住绳子或扯紧绳子,这样攀爬者就不会掉到地上。如果没有安全绳,一个人爬上这么高的地方会非常可怕和危险的。但当你有安全绳和守护员紧紧守护着你时,你就不用害怕了。知道有个人能确保你的安全,一切就不一样了!



今天的圣经故事是关于一位名叫迦勒的男人。他知道**他可以倚靠神**。圣经上说迦勒有些不一样的地方。但是,是什么使得他与众不同呢?是他比周围的人更强壮?或更聪明?更风趣?还是他有三头六臂使他看起来不一样?或者他有某种超能力使他出众?这些都不是**!圣经说迦勒有一个不一样的心志**。不一样的心志?那是什么呢?让我们一起来找出答案。迦勒是生活在神带领以色列人出埃及进入应许之地的年代,这应许之地就是神所赐的迦南地,迦南地将成为他们的新家。神叫以色列人的领袖摩西,派十二个探子去窥探应许之地,迦勒就是其中之一。摩西对他们说: "你们去察看那地如何?查清楚住在那里的人是强还是弱,是多还是少?看看他们住在什么样的土地上,是好的还是差的?"于是探子们就往迦南地去探究那地的出产。



在窥探应许之地四十天之后,他们回到摩西和以色列人那里报告说: "我们到了你所打发我 们去的地方。这确实是一块肥沃的土地,流淌着奶和蜂蜜之地。这就是它出产的果实。"他们带 回了石榴和无花果,还有一大串葡萄,这串葡萄是如此的巨大要两个人用一根杆子才能抬回来。 哇,好大串葡萄啊!这片土地是那么肥沃富饶,长满了这么一串串硕大的葡萄。但同时在这片土 地上,也有巨人住在那里。巨人?是的,巨人!他们也看到了住在那里的人又高大又强壮,且他 们居住的城邑也被坚固的高墙包围着呢!以色列人听到这里,变得非常惧怕。



但迦勒对住在那里的这些巨人并不放在心上,他很兴奋神赐给他们这么好的土地居住,巨人?!那又怎样!民数记 13 章 30 节,迦勒是如此说的: "我们立刻去夺取那地!我们一定能征服他们的!"然而,和他一起去探索这片土地的其他人并这么认为。他们认为他们不可能拥有这片土地,因为那里有巨人。他们发怨言说: "我们不能上去对抗他们,他们比我们强大。我们看到的所有人都那么高大,他们就像巨人一样,而我们在他们旁边感觉就像蚱蜢!"他们一遍又一遍地抱怨,向以色列人传达着不利报告。



那么,为什么迦勒与其他同去探索新土地的人有如此什么不同的观点?这十二个人都看见了 巨人,但只有约书亚和迦勒有信心去征服这片土地。当每个人都说: "哦,不可能!这是不可能 的事!",此时迦勒却说: "我们立刻行动,我们一定会赢!"是什么让迦勒如此确信他能夺取 那块地的呢?是他知道一些而其他人不知道的事吗?他的秘诀是什么?还记得吗,我们说过迦勒 有个不一样的心志?迦勒的观点与其他人是那么的不同,就是因为他有非凡的心志!在他心里, 他的信心与其他人不一样。他确实也看到了住在这片土地上的巨人,但他知道耶和华与他同在。 他相信,既然神应许把这片土地赐给他们,神一定会帮助他们赶走巨人,征服这片土地的!



相信你听过这个故事后来发生的事情:就是因为以色列人相信了这些不利报告,所以他们太害怕了,导致他们在旷野四处流浪了 40 年;而只有相信神的应许的约书亚和迦勒得以进入应许之地。即使这么多年过去了,迦勒仍然坚信神会赐予他胜利。



迦勒在他 85 岁的时候,求约书亚给他一座山地去征服。约书亚记 14 章 12 节告诉我们,迦 勒是这样对约书亚说的: "耶和华若与我同在,我就照祂所说的,将他们赶出这地。"更令人震 惊的是,这座山到处都是巨人!迦勒与众不同的心志使得他坚信勇敢去作战是合适的。"巨人也 许很强大,但我的神更伟大!"迦勒是这么认为的,这就是他与众不同的地方。迦勒有一个截然 不一样的心志,他全心全意地跟从神。迦勒信靠神的应许,他相信神是信实的必会说到做到。



让我们来看看神是怎么说迦勒的。民数记 14 章 24 节是这样说的: "唯独我的仆人迦勒有一 个不一样的心志,全心全意地追随我,我就把他领进他所去过的那地,他的后裔也必承受那地为 业。"神非常喜悦迦勒,把他和他所有的儿女都带进应许之地。这就是拥有与众不同心志的果效 ——作为神所心爱的孩子,你将享受神应许给你的一切! 接下来让我告诉你一位主日学老师身上所发生的事。在 2019 年的新冠病毒爆发以后,商业 开始萧条。这位老师所在的公司也不例外,不得不要解雇一些员工。她就是那些失业的人员之 一。当她的朋友们听说她失业了,他们中的一些人很担心她,对她说: "哦,糟糕!你没有了收 入,你打算怎么办?"



起初,这让她很担心,因为她知道要找到一份新工作并不是那么容易。但是她想到她并不是 孤身一人,有神与她同在,神必看顾她。因此,她并没有像周围的人那样焦虑不安,而是每天提 醒自己:**耶和华是我的牧者,我拥有一切所需的!**她知道神会好好照顾她的,她相信神不仅会给 她一份新工作,而且还会给她一个好公司和好职位。不久之后,她果然得到了一份新工作。正如 她所相信的那样,这份新工作甚至比她失去的那份更好。



孩子们,我们今天学到了什么呢?我们学到了我们可以像迦勒一样有不一样的心志。拥有不一样的心志,意味着:

- 1. 我们不必和周围的人一样;
- 2. 我们跟随神,相信祂给我们的应许是确定的和真实的;
- 3. 我们将学会以不同于这个世界的心态看待我们的问题,因为我们看到神与我们同在。

孩子们,当你相信神总是与你同在,相信祂会帮助你跨越生活中的种种挑战——即使是超大号的 挑战——时,你就有了一个不一样的心志。在哥林多后书 12 章第 9 节,你可能也想重点圈出这一 节经文,它是这样说的: "我的恩典足够你用,因为我的能力使人的软弱之处变得完美。"如果 遇到一个问题,对于你来说似乎太大而处理不来时,不要担心!神说: "我的恩典足够你用。" 如果你在做某些件事上感觉力不从心时,神是这样说的: "我的能力使人的软弱之处变得完 美。"当我们在生活中面临巨大的难题时,我们不必害怕,因为我们知道神与我们同在。我们可 以祈求神的恩典来帮助我们,给我们我们所需要的;我们可以祈求神给我们能力,在我们软弱的 地方作工。神会来帮助我们的。当你相信神永远与你同在,祂会永远帮助你的时候,你就有了不 一样的的心志,所有孩子们一起说"阿门"!



孩子们,如果你正在听这个故事,你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命,成为你的主 和救主,你现在可以这样做,跟着我重复这个祷告:"亲爱的主耶稣,感谢你为我死在 十字架上。你是神的儿子,你死了,也被埋葬,第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有 的罪,使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里,成为我的主和 救主,我永远是个义人,永远是有福的,永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名,阿门!"

A DIFFERENT SPIRIT

My grace is sufficient for you, my strength is made perfect in weakness. – 2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV

Hey, Rock Kidz! Do you know what this is? It's a rock climbing wall! Can you guess how high it is? 5 metres? 10 metres? Ooh, this one is more than 15metres high. Whoa! Can you imagine being up that high? Would you be nervous? What gives these rock climbers the courage to climb these walls? What if they get tired along the way? Or lose their trip and slip? What happens then?

Look at this picture. See the safety harnesses and ropes on these climbers? For every climber going up, there's another person at the bottom, hanging on to the safety rope and looking out for the climber's safety. This person is called the belayer. The belayer's job is to closely watch the climber and ensure that he has enough ropes to get to the top. He also holds or tightens the ropes when needed, so that the climber doesn't fall to the ground. Without a safety harness, climbing up so high by yourself would be scary and really dangerous. But when you have a safety harness and a belayer, hanging on to you, you don't have to be afraid. Knowing that there is someone you can count on to keep you safe, makes all the difference!

Today's Bible lesson is about a man who knew that he could count on God. His name was Caleb. The Bible says that Caleb had something different about him. But what made him different from everyone else? Was he stronger, smarter or funnier than everyone around him? And did he have twelve hands? Three eyes, or five ears that made him look different? Or maybe he had some kind of superhuman power that made him different from everyone else? No! the Bible says that Caleb had a different spirit. A different spirit? What's that? Well, let's find out. Caleb lived during a time when God was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land. This was the land of Canaan, which God had given to them. And this was going to be their new home where they would live. God asked Moses, the leader of the Israelites, to send twelve spies to check out the promised land. Caleb was one of them. Moses said to them, "See what the land is like. Find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad?" So off they went to the land of Canaan to discover what it had to offer.

After exploring the promised land for forty days, they returned back to Moses and the Israelites with this report. "We went to the land where you sent us. It is indeed a bountiful land flowing with milk and honey. And this is its fruits!" They brought back pomegranates and figs, and a giant cluster of grapes so large that two people had to carry it with a pole! Wow, that's a lot of grapes! The land was rich, bountiful, and filled with giant bunches of grapes. But there were also giants living in the land. Giants? Yes! Giants! The twelve leaders saw that the people living there were big and powerful, and their towns were surrounded with giant walls! When the people heard this report, they trembled with fear.

But Caleb wasn't bothered by these giants living there. He was excited that God had given them such a good land to live in! Giants? So what? Numbers 13:30 tells us, "Let's go at once to take the land," he said. "We can certainly conquer it!" However, the other men who explored the land with him, didn't quite feel the same way. They thought that there was no way that they could possess the land because of the giants in there. "We can't go up against them. They are stronger than we are. All the people we saw were huge! They were like giants, and we felt like grasshoppers next to them!" And on and on they whined, spreading a bad report to the people of Israel.

Now, how is it that Caleb had such a different perspective from the rest of the men who explored the land with him? All twelve men saw the giants, but only two of them, Joshua and Caleb were confident of conquering the land. When everyone said, "Oh, no! Oh, no! Oh, no!" Caleb said, "Let's go at once! We will surely win." What made Caleb so sure that he could take the land? Did he know something that the rest didn't? what was his secret? Remember what we said about Caleb having a different spirit? Caleb had different view from the other men, because he had a different spirit. In his heart, he believed differently from the rest of them. Yes, he saw the giants living in the land. But he also knew that the Lord was with him. He believed that because God had promised to give them this land, God would surely help them drive out the giants and conquer the land.

You know the story – because the people all believed the bad report and were too afraid, the Israelites wandered around for 40 years. Only Joshua and Caleb, who believed in God's promises, got to enter the promised land. Even all those years later, Caleb never stopped believing that he could count on the Lord to give him the victory.

When he was 85 years old, Caleb asked Joshua to give him a mountain to conquer. Joshua 14: 12 tells us, " ... But if the LORD is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the LORD said." What made it even more amazing was that this mountain was full of giants! Caleb's different spirit kept him believing bold and fighting fit. The giants may be big, but my God is bigger!" That's what Caleb believed in his heart. And that's what made him different. Caleb had a different spirit, one that wholeheartedly followed after God. Caleb believed god's promise. He believed that God is faithful to do what He said He would do.

Let's see what God said about Caleb. Numbers 14: 24 says this, "But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it." God was so pleased with Caleb, that he brought him into the promised land together with all his children. This is what happens when you have different spirit. You will enjoy all that God has promised to give you as His beloved child.

Let me tell you what happened to a teacher from Rock Kids, when COVID – 19 started. Business was bad and her company had to let some people go. She was among the people who lost their job. When her friends heard she lost her job, some of them are very worried for her. "Oh, no! You won't have any money. What are you going to do?"

At first, this made her worried, because she knew it would not easy to get a new job. But she remembered she was not alone. The Lord was with her, and He would take good care of her. So instead of being anxious and worried like the people around her, she reminded herself every day, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need. She knew that Daddy God would take good care of her. She believed that God would not only give her a new job, but a good position in a good company as well. Not long after that, she was offered a new job. And just as she believed, this new job was even better that the one she lost!

Rock Kidz, what have we learn today? We learned that we can be like Caleb and have a different spirit. Having a different spirit means that we don't have to be like everyone around us. Having a different spirit means following God and believing that His promises for us are certain and true. Having a different spirit means that we will learn to see our problems differently. Because we see that God is with us. Rock Kidz! You have a different spirit, when you believe that God is always with you, and He will help you to conquer any challenge in life. Yes, even the giant – sized one. In 2 Corinthians 12: 9, you might want to highlight this as well. It says, "My grace is sufficient for you, My strength is made perfect in weakness." If a problem seems too big for you to handle, don't worry. God says that "My grace is all you need." If you're feeling weak, like do something, God says that "My power works best in weakness." When we face giant problems in life, we don't have to fear, because we know that God is with us. We can ask God for His grace to help us and to give us what we need. We can ask God for His power to work in areas that we are weak in, and He will come and help us. You have a different spirit when you believe that God is always with you, and He will always help you. And all the Rock Kidz say "Amen!"

Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus'name," and everyone say, "Amen."