GETTING OLD ISN'T FOR SISSIES!

Reference: **Joshua 14:6-14**

Pastor Larry Webb

The Old Testament character, Caleb, is an outstanding example of someone that understood the biblical approach to aging. The background to this account is **verses 6-10**
Caleb teaches us four basic principles about aging:

Principle One: advanced age doesn't mean we have to _____ _____!
verse eleven, *"As yet I am as strong this day as on the day Moses sent me; **just as my strength was then, so now is my strength** for war, both for going out and for coming in."*

From a biblical perspective aging and old age is a blessing from God:
Reference: **Genesis 25:8** *"Then Abraham breathed his last and died in **a good old age**, **an old man** and **full of years**…"*

Reference**: I Chronicles 29:28**, *"So he* (David) *died in **a good old age**, **full of days**…"*

Reference: **Job 42:17**, *"So Job died, **old** and **full of days**"*

Reference: **Proverbs 16:31**, *"The **silver haired head** is a crown of glory…"*

Reference: **Titus 1:5**, *"…appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you"*

Reference: **Titus 2:3** and **4** encourages quote *"older women"* to teach *"younger women."*

Reference: **Exodus 20:12**, *"Honor your father and your mother*, (why did God tell the ancient Israelites to do that?) ***that your days may be long** in the land which the LOD your God is giving you."*

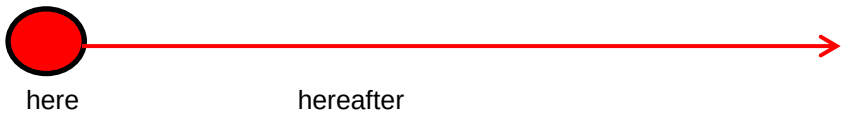
Reference: **Leviticus 19:32**, *"You shall rise before the **gray headed** and honor the **presence of an old man**…"*

Generations after us have to learn aging from us.
Reference: **Psalm 71:18**, *"Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, **Your power to everyone who is to come**."*

Principle Two: aging should be seen as a _____.
verse twelve, Caleb said, *"Now therefore, **give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke in that day**; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said."*

Principle Three: it's possible for our _____ _____ to come in our old age.
Reference: **Numbers 14:24**, *"But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, **I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it**."*

Principle Four: No matter how old we are God still rewards spiritual _____
verse thirteen, *"**And Joshua blessed him** (Caleb), **and gave Hebron to Caleb** the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance."*
verse fourteen, "*Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because* (because…because…) ***he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel**."*

Reference: **Matthew 5:12**, *"Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is **your reward in heaven**…"*

The Law of the Unbreakable Link: the uninterrupted link between the _____ and the _____.