

## The Caleb Quest – Mark Atteberry

Title:	The Caleb Quest – What you can learn from the boldest dreamer in the Bible
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Summary:	Character Study of Caleb
Comments:	Very enjoyable and useful to turn into sermons...

### Preface.

Why do people lose their dreams? How can we make our dreams become a reality? Down to earth practicalities from Caleb's story to help you make your dream come true.

#### 1. Assessing your dream

Caleb's dream was ignited when he saw the hill country of Hebron. In spite of the giant Anakim who lived there, he was passionate about it. It was a dream that found him. It was a dream that dominated his viewfinder. There are 3 tests to apply to a dream:

1. Does it fit in with God's will?
2. Does it fit in with your talents?
3. Will it benefit God's people as well as you?

#### 2. Dream Killers

If it's a dream from God, then Satan will try to kill it.

1. Through enemies who will try to stop you – for Caleb the enemies were the Anakim.
2. Your friends. (Stunning illustration of crabs in a trap.) Those whose motives are pure can hold us back thru fear. Those whose motives are impure hold us back by filling us with doubt and fear.
3. Yourself: Your own bad habits and sin could hold you back.

Be warned: God doesn't like dream killers – look at the fate of the spies who tried to kill Caleb's dream.

#### 3. Getting God involved.

God loves all people. But there are people who we can call His favourites – the ones on whom His favour rests. Be one of God's favourites. Allow God to work powerfully in your life as you make it His. Caleb was someone like that:

1. He was a **humble** servant
2. He was **courageously** different from others
3. He remained **loyal** to God in the midst of delays and temptations.

#### 4. In the fulness of time.

We cannot rush or fast-track the fulfilment of a dream. Caleb had to wait. Reasons for Divine Delays:

1. God wanted to weed out the whiners
2. God gave Caleb time to prepare
3. We may need to be faithful in the little things that are on our plates now

4. We may have to deal with sin in our lives first.

Stunning illustration of Bible with promises underlined but conditions ignored.

5. Our part in the process

We have a part to play too.

1. Caleb kept his faith strong in the midst of the whining of the people. For 40 years!
2. Caleb got other people excited about his dream.
3. Caleb kept himself in good physical shape.
4. Caleb asked for his dream – see James 4:2
5. Caleb was committed to fighting tough battles – he hadn't forgotten the giant Anakim – but he would take them on.

6. What to do when your dream comes true.

Many people cling on to their dreams and become pathetic and sad figures. Caleb achieves his dream and with great love gives the best part of it to his daughter and son-in-law. Caleb had a heart generous enough to give his dream away!