

Reaching the land of Milk and Honey...Each one of us is on the next step of our development .. Just as it was true for the Israelites and Caleb it is true for us....
the Israelites had to learn the truth just as you and I have too...and that is Your life is not in the hands of enemies or events or circumstances but his life was in the hands of God. God's plan overrules every plan devised against you, and every circumstance aligned against you... God's plan overrules sickness, unemployment, broken relationships, failure, and disappointment which sometimes have victory over our lives But even then God is good and God's plan is in full motion.. **God will use everything for Good, including what the enemy intends for evil. For nothing can overrule his plans for us...to walk Successfully in this truth you have grow in what we call the Dip...**
way back in Genesis God promised Abram...then they entered the Dip...but God promised that his offspring would enter this land the land of milk and honey

*Genesis 12:7*The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give **this land.**” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

then Moses...hundreds of years later..

Exodus 3:8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians **and** to bring them up out of that land into a good **and** spacious land, a land flowing with **milk and honey**—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites **and** Jebusites.

- **the big deal was giving the offspring of Abraham the land...not which group actually gets it..that is something we need to grasp in our walk with God....He is doing things in your life...but it is not all about your life...it is about what he wants to accomplish!**
- **and what he wants to accomplish always has a learning curve attached to it...**
- Noel Burch, an employee with Gordon Training International, developed the Conscious Competence Ladder in the 1970s. **It helps us understand our thoughts and emotions during the sometimes-dispiriting learning processes in the Dip...._The model highlights two factors that affect our thinking as we learn a new skill: 1)consciousness (awareness) what we feel and 2)skill level (competence).**

According to the model, we move through the following phases as we build competence in a new skill...which all takes place in the Dip...

1. **Unconsciously unskilled – we don't know that we don't have this skill, or that we need to learn it.**
 2. **Consciously unskilled – we know that we don't have this skill.**
 3. **Consciously skilled– we know that we have this skill.**
 4. **Unconsciously skilled – we don't know that we have this skill (it just seems easy).**
- **We see these processes worked out in the Israelites..just as they work out in our lives if we stay faithful...we have studeid up to this pint ...two years after reachig the jumping off point to receive the land...the Isrealites did not...but God's plan is still completely in effect....just not the way they thought...**

We pick up the end result 40 years later as recorded by Moses in Deut 1...God again brought the people up to the jumping off spot into the lnd of Milk and Honey...the generatinon that thought God couldn't do what he said...died expeincing what they believed...but Caleb and the next generation were ready... they were consciously competent...

Caleb and the people had gained 40 years of wisdom and experience and grown in faiththy had pressed into pressed into the long dip....

Now gives a refreher course to the people, Moses recounting the events 40 years later

Deut 1:19 Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful wilderness that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea. ²⁰ Then I said to you, "You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹ See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." ²² Then all of you came to me and said, "Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to." ²³ The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.

- **They seemed brave and skilled and thought they were ...all of them came asking to have the best route scouted out to take... At the beginning of the process, they were confident but they did not know how unskilled they were**
- **but in reality they were Unconsciously unskilled and incompetent– we don't know that we don't have this skill, or that we need to learn it. all excited to go into the land**
- **Until they discovered the difficulty, which to them seemed insurmountable..**

Deut 1:²⁶ But you were unwilling to go up; you *rebelled against the command of the LORD your God.* ²⁷ You grumbled in your tents and said, “The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. ²⁸ Where can we go? *Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear.* They say, ‘The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.’”

- hearing the NEWS AND THE NEGATIVE REPORT, **they panicked .. because** discovered something about themselves that they did not know previously
- **they entered into phase two of the learning process: they were Consciously unskilled – we know that we don't have this skill....**it is painful to really realize where we lack... but pain is OK. The idea of running from our pain is actually what is destroying our ability to move forward...**But It's only in your pain that you can grow**
- This level can be demoralizing, causing people to lose **confidence** or even give up on their learning efforts altogether. Therefore, it's important to stay **positive** at this stage.
- **To successfully move out of level 1, use the SWOT Analysis to identify your strengths and weaknesses, and to understand which skills you need to learn.**
- Then ask other people for their input, so that you can uncover weaknesses and skill needs that you might otherwise miss....they would have realized **that others are much more competent than you are, and that they can easily do things that you are struggling with. in this case...God Moses, Caleb, Joshua**
- Be teachable..Exactly what Moses attempted to do

²⁹ Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. ³⁰ The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, ³¹ and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”

- **Moses encouraged them He was sensitive at this early stage, to give plenty of positive feedback to keep people's motivation high.**
- **And instructed them in what they needed to grow in... it was Faith... and encourage them that they could succeed...and why they could succeed..**
- **to no avail.. so they remained stuck...in the Dip and did not move through it!**

Deut 1:³² In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God, ³³ who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go. ³⁴ When the LORD heard what you said, he was

angry and solemnly swore: ³⁵ “No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors,

- Faith is lived by obeying God’s directions “One Day at a Time” And I thank God for that because Living by Faith is not easy.
- **the rebuke did not cause repentance...turning from their thoughts of trusting God but themselves and their assessments.....and to again not be teachable...**
 - **Moses recounts**

Deut 1:41 Then you replied, “We have sinned against the LORD. We will go up and fight, as the LORD our God commanded us.” So every one of you put on his weapons, thinking it easy to go up into the hill country.⁴² But the LORD said to me, “Tell them, ‘Do not go up and fight, because I will not be with you. You will be defeated by your enemies.’”

- **and they became arrogant which sums up process on...unconsciously unskilled...check out all the you's and yours...**

⁴³ So I told **you**, but **you** would not listen. **You** rebelled against the LORD’s command and in **your arrogance you marched up** into the hill country. ⁴⁴ The Amorites who lived in those hills came out against **you**; they chased **you** like a swarm of bees and beat **you** down from Seir all the way to Hormah. ⁴⁵ **You** came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to **your** weeping and turned a deaf ear to **you**. ⁴⁶ And so **you** stayed in Kadesh many days—all the time **you** spent there.

- **This level can be demoralizing, causing people to lose confidence or even give up on their learning efforts altogether. Therefore, it's important to stay positive at this stage...God was still with them...the fire and the cloud were still there**
- **Use tools like scripture to combat negative thinking and stay focused on the big picture on days when you feel down. Remember, learning at this stage might be uncomfortable in the short term, but these skills taught will help you reach your goals and build a better life**
- **which takes us to Three...Consciously skilled which Caleb was...**

Deut 1: 35 “No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors, ³⁶ except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”
³⁷ Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, “You shall not enter it, either. ³⁸ But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he

will lead Israel to inherit it. ³⁹ And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad—they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.

- **He was Consciously skilled**— we know that we have this skill. Caleb was competent in Faith and grew in ability to lead the next generation...
- **At this level, you know that you have acquired the skills and knowledge you need. You put your learning into practice regularly, and you gain even more confidence as you use your new skills.**
- You still need to concentrate when you perform these activities, but, as you get more practice and experience, these activities become increasingly automatic.
- To move successfully through Level 3, look for opportunities to use your skills as often as you can. Caleb influenced his descendents and peers..and relatives...and as a result everyone was blessed by him

*******bear in mind that you may go backwards down the Phases if you don't use your new skills regularly.**

look at verse 37...*37 Because of you the Lord became angry with me also and said, “You shall not enter it, either.*

Moses was not allowed to enter...for earlier he disobeyed God in front of the people...instead of speaking to the rock for water as God commanded he struck it twice in front of the people...Numbers 20.

40 years have passed... they were a hard time...and it looks like victory is coming...but this is not exactly so...Moses will not enter the land

- And the next generation will enter without Moses...but he gives them the methodology God will use...

Deut 7:17 You may say to yourselves, “These nations are stronger than we are. How can we drive them out?”¹⁸ But do not be afraid of them; remember well what the LORD your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt.¹⁹ You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm, with which the LORD your God brought you out. The LORD your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear.

²⁰ Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished.²¹ Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God,

who is among you, is a great and awesome God.²² The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

- **And what this means for Caleb is another 5 years or so... ..Would Caleb say at this point in time ...on the scorecard of success in life, I am moving along nicely?? I don't know he is 85 years old**
- **This is the truth of life...at any given point we do not and cannot know the measure of our success the way God sees it. Wisdom says: leave success ratings to God, and live your walk with God as one of faithfulness rather than judging by the idolatry of achievement.” He walked in hope demonstrated by doing right..!**

And from God's perspective things are moving along nicely!! what I've come to love in this world is people who have no reason to feel hope, insist on I n t anyway, discover it, and *live* it.

another 5 years Caleb is now enters the phase of Unconsciously Skilled

- **At this level, you use your new skills effortlessly, and you perform tasks without conscious effort. You are completely confident of success.**
- **Once you master one set of skills, it's important to learn more if you want to continue to grow.**
- **A good way to do this is to teach these new skills to others in your organization. This will keep information fresh in your mind, deepen your understanding of the material, and give you a rewarding way to pass this knowledge on to others.**
- **Caleb would not only enter the land, he would still be strengthened by faith in God even in his old age. ...He pressed into the long dip....and was greatly rewarded...as recorded in his conversation with Joshua...**

JOS 14:10 "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."

- The anakites? these are the same guys mentioned 45 years ago who scared the Faith right out of the 10 spies

NU 13: 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

*33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). **We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.**"*

- these were bad hombres!

45 years later those guys are still rule Hebron!! but this time the next generation did not panic!!

***Joshua 15:14** From Hebron **Caleb** drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai, the sons of Anak.*

This is the lesson...you run from what God wants to do...you will come back to it! later... but my hope is better equipped and a stronger faith! unconscious competence....

Your life is not in the hands of enemies or events or circumstances but your life is in the hands of God...face what you must bravely and you will succeed run and you will run into it again!!

End

Another thought

But listen *LK 9:20 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "The Christ of God."*

- They got it...he was god come to earth... Then he took three up a mountain...

The scene of Jesus shining like the sun, together with Moses and Elijah, and with Peter, James and John, was like a preview of heaven, where God reigns.

LK 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

He takes Peter, James and John up alone to a mountain and allows them to see who he really is in his heavenly body and clothes.. taking off his earthblows the mind of his disciples...talks to two prophets who were dead...but are alive....they are having a debriefing with Jesus ...

- the three apostles... do the appropriate thing and fall down terrified...for they had never ever seen a Jesus in his awesomeness...
- Peter wanted to stay there forever and wanted them too., asking Jesus if he could build shelters for everyone.
- Moses and Elijah go away in a cloud...God the Father speaks...then everything goes back to normal...
- **Why does he do this? To show them more of Jesus...the one from God is God...the son is of the same essence as the Father...he is God...**
- Then Jesus changes back into his earth suit... and they walk down the mountain
- The steps of a righteous man are ordered by God...

When God is at work in a person, there are times you can actually, tangibly feel him and the experience the changes taking place. There are times when you wonder am I moving forward at all?? and times when on the one hand things are going great while at the same time on the other hand life sucks....David like you and me has to

realize even though he was experiencing tremendous trials and great victories... he has to learn the same things you and I do...

Each one of us is on the next step of our development ..

quick review Just as it was true for David it is true for us....

David Had to learn Principle 1...Your life is not in the hands of enemies or events or circumstances but his life was in the hands of God. And that God's goodness and love toward David overruled every plan devised against him, and every circumstance aligned against him... God's Love and goodness overrules when sickness, unemployment, broken relationships, failure, and disappointment ---are gnawing at our lives, even then God is good. **God will use everything for Good, including what the enemy intends for evil. For nothing can overrule his plans for us...to walk Sucessfully in this you have to be wired with HOPE!!**

The Psalmist David writes: he was wired for hope!!!

*PS 28:7 The **LORD** is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.*

- *(Heart leaps because his hope is in the Lord's strength and shield)...there will be battles...we need his strength and protecton*
- *And Joy comes as a result of knowing this ...not only intellectually but in our hearts...the core of our being..*
- **God chooses to build up His people through time and pressure....just like a diamond is formed through time and pressure..**
- **and he purifies us by fire just like gold...**
- **he even tells us this...**
- **so why are we surprised when it happens???**
- **Patience is necessary: Moses had to learn this lesson...God helping him to take over the land God promised the Israelites..**

EX 23: 29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. ³⁰ Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

- **This is important...and that is where we pick up the story of David's life today...**

Saul's reign as King of Israel was declining , along with his spiritual relationship with God, his psychological health, and his influence as a leader...to the point of being unable to motivate his army unto battle...

David on the other hand ...who being anointed at the age of 17 as being the next King...is gaining in influence at first as a musician...to soothe the King in his depression...and now three years later is becoming a national hero in the eyes of the people...for his victory in the Valley of Elah against the Philistine Warrior Giant named Goliath...

*****Principle 2 ...when God is doing a work in someone there is always time of preparation ...interposed with an opportunity that changes everything...**

- it was the best day and choice ...David could have made, **it opened an amazing door** which as he stepped into it led to 10 years of grief and hard times ... mixed with wonderful exhilarating times... there were battles won and battles lost...
 - great friendships formed and great love found...and great friendships lost and love abandoned...times of confusion and frustration times of great joy and mighty victories...and ultimately seven years of running for his very life...
- **quite the preparation for him to be a King!! and this kind of preparation is vital for us to be effective in the Kingdom of God!!**

1 Samuel ^{17:57} As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, **Abner** took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head.⁵⁸ "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him. David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

*****Principle 3...for anyone of us to succeed we need help from key people who are with us, through the journey ...think of this...**

- **David had his Jonathon...Moses his Aaron...Joshua his Caleb...Mary her Elizabeth... James his John...Paul his Timothy... Jesus his disciples...if you're married ought to be your spouse...**

1 Samuel 18:1 After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. ^{1Sam 18:2} From that day Saul kept David with him

and did not let him return home to his family. ³ And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. ⁴ Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt.

- **Immediately David finds the best friend he ever had...faithful loyal and humble...who recognized David as the next King...and covenanted with him to be his number two forever...**
- **and He was the next in line for the Kingship...**
- **So David now moves into the Palace...of King Saul...a new direction takes place...**
- **Saul's family loved David...God will not leave us relationally alone...**
 - **the rest of today will cover a time period of approximately 3 years in David's life 20 to 23 years old**

*****Principle 4. developing a leader takes time.. practice...and trouble...He has led himself and sheep now he steps up in challenge to lead people..**

Deuteronomy 1:36

except **Caleb** son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”

Joshua 14:6

[*Allotment for Caleb*] Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and **Caleb** son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me.

Joshua 14:13

Then Joshua blessed **Caleb** son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.

Joshua 14:14

So Hebron has belonged to **Caleb** son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the LORD, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.

Joshua 15:13

In accordance with the LORD’s command to him, Joshua gave to **Caleb** son of Jephunneh a portion in Judah—Kiriath Arba, that is, Hebron. (Arba was the forefather of Anak.)

Joshua 15:14

From Hebron **Caleb** drove out the three Anakites—Sheshai, Ahiman and Talmai, the sons of Anak.

