

HEBREWS 6:19,20

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PUBLISHED AT LEAST QUARTERLY FOR THOSE THAT "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD,  
AND THE FAITH OF JESUS"

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## STONES ... HANDS ... FALSE REPORTS ...

"Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4

It was Caleb's faith in God that gave him courage: that ... enabled him to stand boldly and unflinchingly in defense of the right. From the same exalted source, the mighty General of the armies of heaven, every true soldier of the cross of Christ must receive strength and courage to overcome obstacles that often seem insurmountable ... those who would do their duty must be ever ready to speak the words that God gives them, and not the words of doubt, discouragement, and despair ....

While the doubting ones talk of impossibilities, while they tremble at the thought of high walls and strong giants, let the faithful Calebs, who have "another spirit", come to the front. The truth of God, which bringeth salvation, will go forth to the people if ministers and professed believers will not hedge up its way, as did the unfaithful spies ....

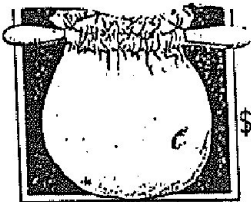
Human agencies are to be employed in this work. Zeal and energy must be intensified: talents that are rusting from inaction must be pressed into service. The voice that would say, "Wait: do not allow yourself to have burdens imposed upon you," is the voice of the cowardly spies. We want Calebs now who will press to the front—chieftains in Israel who with courageous words will make a strong report in favor of immediate action. When the selfish, ease-loving, panic-stricken people, fearing tall giants and inaccessible walls, clamor for retreat, let the voice of the Calebs be heard, even though the cowardly ones stand with stones in their hands, ready to beat them down for their faithful testimony. 51 378-383



It is when the unbelieving cast contempt upon the Word of God that the faithful Calebs are called for. It is then that they will stand firm at the post of duty, without parade, and without swerving because of reproach. The unbelieving spies stood ready to destroy Caleb. He saw the stones in the hands of those who had brought a false report, but this did not deter him: he had a message, and he would bear it. The same spirit will be manifested today by those who are true to God. 2SM 369 (MS 48, 1891)







## \$\$\$\$\$\$\$. THE OTHER SIDE OF TITHE. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

as another. Dr Coon points out that often the key factor to judging the right of a church member to disagree is "not *what* is done, but *how* it is done".<sup>31</sup> From this point he admonishes church members to follow the injunction in Matthew 18 (first go to the individual, then to a small group, then to the entire church). What is missed in this argument is, that many who have been out-spoken against the problems within our church, have followed this injunction. There is a point at which it is time to open issues to the entire church. Should these people be criticized for doing this?

A minister recently made a point which is particularly pertinent to our present situation. He stated that "*We can talk about the evils in the church in the past, and be sure to get a host of amens. We can talk about the evils to come, and once again receive an enthusiastic response, but we unto the pastor or layman who talks about the problems in our church today! He will be hounded out of the church for being critical!*" How true this is! We are like the children of Israel at Christ's time who claimed they wouldn't have persecuted the prophets if they had been alive in their time, but later killed Christ.

If Ezekiel, Isaiah, John the Baptist or even Mrs White were alive today, I wonder how many church members would ignore or repudiate their message because it was "unloving", or done in the "wrong way". How much further does the church need to drift towards compromise before the Churchills in our midst are listened to when they warn of a coming catastrophe? Ignoring problems in our church will not make them go away. Attempting to stigmatize those who have the courage to speak out about the problems in our church will not bring about unity of purpose. Denying the extent of the problems in the church, will never bring about the needed reforms.

### CONCLUSION

Tithe is to be used for supporting workers who are spreading the Adventist message to the world. The organizational credentials are not as important as the results of the work performed. It is up to the individual member to decide to whom they give their tithes and offerings. "The Jewish rulers recognised the obligation of tithing, and this was right; but they did not leave the people to carry out their own convictions of duty." Desire of Ages p.616. No matter which organization one chooses, it is vital to keep in mind that the world is coming to a crisis point. Dare any member of God's church refuse funds to finish the work, and hamper the final message to the world? I surely hope not. At a time of unprecedented wealth, it is a terrible shame that giving is at an all-time low. Most assuredly it is time for us as a church to begin the work of co-

operating with the Saviour in cleansing the camp, and regain our mission to the world. Let us thank God for those who still give a faithful tithe to God, whether independently or through the church organization, and pray for so many members who are robbing God and cheating themselves of great blessings by not returning tithe to God at all!

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