

But my servant Caleb,

because he has a different spirit and has followed me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land into which he went, and his descendants will inherit it. Numbers 14:24 (NRSV)

Caleb

REPORT

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SETTLING FOR GOD

by Carmalita Y. Miller

Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

--C.S. Lewis, in *The Weight of Glory*

Sometimes my life reminds me of a pitcher of orange juice that was made from a can of frozen juice concentrate and then left untouched in the fridge for a few days. The juice concentrate separates to the bottom of the pitcher so that if you pour juice into a glass without stirring the pitcher you'll end up with the nonrefreshing taste of 98% water and 2% juice apportioned from the top of the pitcher.

It's this separation that I see in my life. Thoughts and beliefs, hopes and desires watered down by outside influences and internal mind games, actions made sluggish by a heaviness that seems to have settled in my back, legs and feet.

Settling continues and I find myself lowering the bar that I feel that God has asked me to set for myself—it's just a few inches—how much difference will it really make? Next thing I know, months have passed and when I revisit the bar, I realize that instead of

