

### ***“Spiritual Influence”***

*“But when the people of Israel cried out to the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb’s younger brother” (Judges 3:9).*

As we walk this walk someone is always watching us... Whether they be young or old we must keep the words of the Apostle Paul at the front of our hearts when he told Timothy to “set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). The mighty warrior Caleb served the Lord with bravery during his lifetime. The Bible tells us that Caleb “wholly followed the LORD” (Joshua 14:8). Along with his faithful commitment to the Lord I am convinced that some of the people around him sought to follow his example in serving the Lord.

In the book of Judges, we read of a young man named “Othniel.” Othniel was the first recorded judge in Israel who served as a Spirit-anointed deliver and leader for the people of God. The writer of the book of Judges when introducing Othniel made sure to mention that Othniel was kin to the great champion of the past Caleb. Some translations differ in their readings on whether Othniel was the brother or nephew of Caleb. But after further study and help from an Old Testament scholar who is a dear friend, more than likely Othniel was the nephew of Caleb.

And so, what does all this mean? What’s the message that I am trying to get across here? Well, Othniel looked up to Uncle Caleb! In fact, I believe Othniel grew up to be the man that he came to be because Caleb influenced his life. During all those years of his childhood, his people were led, encouraged, and carried by the faith and courage of Caleb.

And possibly as Caleb was serving as a leader among his people, he very well could have fed into young Othniel. He could have noticed from a young age the hand of God on Othniel’s life. And Caleb could have paid special attention in passing down some of those leadership traits that Othniel would need for the years to come. Now of course all of this could just be a theological assumption... But for some reason under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit the writer of Judges made sure to note that Othniel was related to Caleb... He wanted us as readers to make that connection!

And so dear Christian as you look at your life, do you have any Othniel’s that you could feed into? Can you pass down your wisdom, knowledge, and faith to someone close? And in the same light, do you have a Caleb to look up to? Is there someone in your life who is giving you a good imitation of Christ? Strive to influence others for the good of the Gospel this week! Blessings!

Respect the Blood,  
Dalton Mathis