

“Can you lean a little bit more this way?!”

By Roberto Bruno

The Leaning Tower of Pisa, known to the Italians as *La Torre di Pisa* is a freestanding bell tower that was built in the city of Pisa in 1173. Although intended to stand vertically, the tower began leaning soon after the onset of construction due to a poorly laid foundation and loose substrate that has allowed the foundation to shift direction (*Wikipedia*), ergo causing the tower to lean. The design of the tower itself is not unique to Italy. What attracts thousands of tourists every year to this tower is its lean.

What sets us as Christians apart from other Christians? Is it our hair do? Our cologne? Our shoe size? The Bible talks about a man named Caleb. He was an Israelite but there was something that set him apart from his own people. Numbers 14:24a says, “*My servant Caleb... has a **different** spirit in him...*” What could possibly be different about Caleb? Was it his hairstyle or the way he smelled? At that time all the Israelites were considered the people of God but Caleb was different. There is lots of cookie cutter Christians these days that have the appearance of Godliness but lack the power thereof. Some even think that a limited service to the Lord is acceptable. God want us to be more than just another tower. Another face in the crowd going with the flow or as Pink Floyd puts it “*Another brick in the wall.*”

Then there is Caleb. Let’s look at Numbers 14:24 in its entirety. “*But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has **followed Me fully**, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.*” Caleb didn’t just follow God, he fully followed the Lord. That made the difference. Caleb was sold out to God and accepted what God had for him. He leaned on the Lord for everything!

Jesus said to His disciples, “*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me*”. Matthew 16:24. To “fully follow” we must deny ourselves. Place our **entire** lives in the hands of God. This is why we must, “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths*”. Proverbs 3:5-6. This is very difficult for some but very possible for many. Will you trust Him with your entire life?

