Calling for Heroes
(By Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Hero: any person admired for courage, nobility, or exploits; any person
admired for qualities or achievements and regarded as an ideal or model.
(Webster's New World College Dictionary 4th ed. 1999).

1. Characters who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position
of weakness, display courage and the will for self-sacrifice, that is,
heroism, for some greater good of all humanity. Origins: "ἥρως" (heros),
hero, warrior, literally protector or defender; one who preserves whole.

2. Hero is often simply an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances,
who, despite odds being stacked against him or her, prevails in the end.
(Wikipedia)

3. In a survey, college students were asked to define a hero. They
responded in two ways: subjective and objective.

   a. Subjective view: "A hero is anyone that I personally look up to as
      a role model."

   b. Objective view: "A hero must be someone who has acted
courageously, perhaps in the face of great personal suffering,
sacrifice, or risk.

B. Bible heroes and the characteristics that made them so.

I. CALEB - Joshua 14:6-13 - PERSEVERANCE
   A. Caleb claimed the promise - vs. 9
   B. Age was no hindrance - vs. 10
   C. His key - vs. 14 - "He wholly followed the Lord"

II. JONATHAN - 1Samuel 14:6-7 - WISDOM
   A. He used wise tactics to infiltrate the enemy against overwhelming odds
   B. He faced the Philistines with confidence in the Lord
   C. Jonathan combined what he knew of God’s power and His own abilities
   D. Paul - 2Tim. 4:16-18

III. DAVID - 1Samuel 17:32-37 - FAITH
   A. No enemy was bigger than God
   B. Right perspective on the situation - vss. 44-47

IV. NEHEMIAH - Nehemiah 6:1-13 - WORKS
   A. He would not be diverted
   B. He refused to live in fear
   C. His eye was fixed on the goal - Zech. 4:6-7

V. DANIEL - Daniel 6:6-11 - PRAYER
   A. Nothing would deter Daniel from Prayer
   B. God's law was higher than man's decrees
   C. Daniel's prayer life bore fruit - vss. 25-26
VI. ELISHA - 2Kings 6:8-17 - KNOWLEDGE
   A. What one sees when he looks by faith coming from knowing the word of God
   B. Jesus - John 19:10-11
      1. Pilate represented Rome in all its power
      2. Jesus looked beyond apparent power to who was really in charge
      3. Matt. 26:53

Conclusion:
   A. A hero is not someone we look up to; a hero is someone who has lived in such a way as to have earned our admiration and imitation