

# BE VICTORIOUS, CHOOSE GOD!

MARCH 19, 2023

## WORSHIP

Nothing is Impossible,  
Infinitely Glorious, O How  
Great, Christ is Enough,  
Never Once

## WELCOME

Do you prefer looking  
forward, or looking back  
at your life?

## WORD

**JOSHUA 23:1-6; 24:14,15**  
(READ THE ENTIRE JOSHUA  
23 & 24)

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about after many days, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies on every side, and Joshua was old, advanced in years, <sup>2</sup> that Joshua called for all Israel, for their elders and their heads and their judges and their officers, and said to them, “I am old, advanced in years. <sup>3</sup> And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has been fighting for you. <sup>4</sup> See, I have apportioned to you these nations which remain as an inheritance for your tribes, with all the nations which I have cut off, from the Jordan even to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun. <sup>5</sup> The LORD your God, He will thrust them out from before you and drive them from before you; and you will possess their land, just as the LORD your God promised you. <sup>6</sup> Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left.

“Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 23 and 24 are the last two chapters of the book, and Joshua was now 110 years old, at the end of his time on earth. He was speaking his last words to the people he had led into the Promised Land. Joshua pointed to God’s faithfulness and greatness throughout the time the Israelites travelled from Egypt to Canaan. Joshua reminded the elders that God has been the one fighting for them all throughout those years (**Joshua 23:3**); the God who fought for them, is still fighting for them. This applies to us today; the Bible was written for us to see who God was and who He is. In the New Testament, we see that God is fighting for us today (**1 Corinthians 15:57**). Do you know, feel, and believe that God is fighting for you today? Sometimes, that means that God goes against us because we are going against Him in sin. The Israelites ended up having to go around the wilderness for 40 years instead of just 11 days to the Promised Land because of their rebellious ways. The first generation did not enter the land (except for Joshua and Caleb) because of their sin. God’s rules make things worthwhile for us. God is the victory; victory is the same as having God with you. What does it mean to choose God? Here are three things we need to know:

### 1. WHY – God is Faithful

As Joshua looked back at his life and their journey, and he has seen that God is faithful; not one word of His promises has failed (**Joshua 23:1-3**). God was faithful to unfaithful Israel! If God is faithful to the Israelites, how much more will He be faithful to His children today (**Romans 8:28, 32**). In **Joshua 24:1-13**, Joshua narrated all that God did for the Israelites. Do we have the same perspective in our lives? When you look back, think about what God has done in your life. How many times has God protected you? In Him we move, and live and have our being — every breath we have is a gift from God!

### 2. WHAT – Obey, Set Apart, Serve

**Joshua 23:5-6** echoes what God told Joshua back in chapter 1 (**Joshua 1:7-8**)—to obey all of God’s commands. Before Joshua became a good leader, he was first a good follower—he obeyed all that God commanded him. Now Joshua tells the Israelites the same thing God told him as they were about to enter the Promised Land. God is unchanging, and faithful and the first part of “what” does it look like to choose God is to obey Him fully. The second part is not to associate with what draws our hearts away from God (**Joshua 23:7**). The third part is to serve God (**Joshua 24:14-15**).

Joshua declared before all the people that he and his family will serve the Lord (**v.15**). This verse also shows us how one man’s faithfulness (Joshua) impacts others (his household).

There is a choice to serve; everybody serves somebody. Who are you serving? There are two norms in serving the Lord:

POSITIVE NORM	NEGATIVE NORM
FEAR AND SERVE GOD	DO NOT WORSHIP OTHER gods
CAREFULLY KEEP GOD’S WORD	DO NOT TURN ASIDE to the RIGHT or the LEFT
MEDITATE ON GOD’S LAW DAY AND NIGHT	DO NOT CONFORM TO THE STANDARD OF THIS WORLD

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Be careful of modern “idols” – things that you end up serving with your time, money, etc. Jesus teaches us how we can follow Him and not something else (**Matthew 16:24**).

### 3. How – Cling to God (because God clings to us first)

Joshua instructs the people to cling to the Lord, to love Him (**Joshua 23:8, 11**).

The word “cling” in Hebrew means to “stay close” (**Joshua 23:8**) and is the same word as “joined” (**Genesis 2:24**). To cling to God is the ultimate commitment— “I will stay close”. Moses said the same thing at the end of his life (“holding fast” in **Deuteronomy 30:20**). The journey from Egypt to the Promised Land should have only taken the Israelites 11 days. But because they did not “stay close” to the Lord, God gave them a 40-year wilderness experience. Sometimes in our lives, we turn 11 days into 40 years because we play games with God. We wander in our hearts again and again. God is saying, “If you hold fast to Me, I will be your victory”.

True victory is God’s presence. However, we know that on our own, we cannot cling on to God all our lives (**Joshua 24:19-21**). We need God to fight for us, to go before us. Today, we can cling to God to the best of our ability but only with God’s help (**Matthew 1:23**). We need God to cling to Him because He first clung to us (**John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-10**). Jesus died on the cross for our sins and we are saved when we trust in Him. Joshua foreshadows Jesus—in Hebrew, Jesus is “YESHUA”, which translates to English as JOSHUA.

JOSHUA	JESUS
Dedicated himself to the law of the Lord	Perfectly kept the law and the will of his Father
Used by God to deliver underserving Israelites	Offers salvation to an undeserving world
Conquered the Canaanite armies	At the cross, triumphed over sin and death
Brought the people to their promised earthly inheritance	Brings those who believe in Him to a spiritual heavenly inheritance (become children of God and have eternal life)

The Israelite journey is like our life; the difference is that they did not have Christ. While they could not be faithful, we have God who is faithful over us. When God looks at us, He sees the righteousness of Christ. It is so different, yet the call is the same. Being saved by grace does not mean we do whatever we want. We are called to do good, because God saved me and loved me first, we cling to Him.

Moses and Joshua left the Israelites at the end of their lives. Before Jesus left, He promised all His disciples that He will be with them until the end of time (**Matthew 28:18-20**). Jesus also promised us the Holy Spirit to be with us forever and enable us to obey God (**John 14:6, Galatians 5:16, 22-25**). The only kind of life that is worth living is the one where you choose God each day of your life.

By God’s grace, someday we can tell our story of how “not one of God’s good promises has failed” to our children and our children’s children. Be victorious; choose God!

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

### 1. Self-Check.

What are some examples or stories of how God has been good and faithful in your life?

### 2. Setting It Right.

Is there anything in your life that you need to stop doing because it gets in the way of choosing God?

### 3. Living It Out.

In what concrete way can you serve God today?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people immediately around you and everywhere else that they may choose God today. Help them do so by living out a life that chooses God each day by the Holy Spirit’s help. Share about how God fulfills all His good promises through Jesus. Tell them about how they can know Him as Savior and follow Him as Lord.

## WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God’s help and comfort for Turkish and Syrian people devastated by the 7.8 magnitude earthquake.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

## MEMORY VERSE

### JOSHUA 24:14

<sup>14</sup> “Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.