

## **WE CAN'T SERVE GOD AS HE WANTS ON OUR OWN**

### **Joshua 24:1-25**

**Introduction:** How many of us have launched off on our own going to do something great for the Lord only to quit, get defeated, do a poor job or worse? So often service for the Lord become a burden, a drudgery because something is missing. However when we know something from our own first hand experience, we have no trouble and it is exciting and interesting and successful. Hopefully we will realize after some failures that we just can't serve God on our own power.

Joshua is an example for us Christians to take a look at. He tried a time or two to do some things on his own without consulting God and he failed, miserably but when he went to God and did things the way God wanted them done, he succeeded.

### **I. GOD IS IN CHARGE**

1. From the very beginning the nation Israel and the promised land was God's idea.
2. From the very beginning every believer owes everything to God for all is God's idea also.
  - God revealed Himself to Israel, and has also done so to the Christian.
  - Israel experienced God's mighty works on their behalf, and so has the Christian.
  - God intended for Israel to serve Him and that the world might see Him through Israel.
    - It is the same with Christians. Christians are to serve God and be witnesses to the world around them so that the world might know and see God.
  - God wanted Israel to be His special people. So God also wants the believer in Jesus to be His special person, perfect and mature.
3. What God's children are, they are by the grace of God and they owe all entirely to God.
  - Their salvation - their growth - their progress - their security

### **II. ALTHOUGH GOD IS IN CHARGE, HIS CHILDREN ARE FREE TO DISOBEY HIM**

1. People have the freedom to choose God and serve Him.
2. God has done everything for His Children but His Children are unable to do anything on their own for Him in return.
  - They frequent fail.
  - Their successes are few.
3. It is possible to have union with God but at the same time also be a stranger to Him.
  - One may have life, but not abundant life.
  - One may have pardon, but be powerless over sin in his/her life.
  - One may be justified, but be separated from Him.

4. There is a sad difference between what we are in position by virtue of what our Lord did for us at Calvary and what we are in experience by virtue of what He can do for us.
  - All Christians have eternal life, but not all Christians have abundant life.
4. No one can live the abundant life whose heart is afraid or whose heart is not obedient to God.
  - Although God has done so much for His children, His children are helpless to do anything back to/for God on their own.

### **III. JUST WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM HIS CHILDREN?**

1. How can the helplessness of God's Children ever bring them into abundant life?
  - It is heard about, many know about it, many have entered into it.
2. How do people become "giants" of faith that we have heard about?
  - By being obedient.
  - Satan blinds the eyes and causes us to become content with a partial Christianity.
  - Obeying God, waiting on God, claiming what God has promised in the Bible makes Giants of Faith.
  - God has no favorites and any believer can become a Giant of the Faith.
3. There is no such thing as a "final" experience of faith. One's capacity for more faith enlarges as "self" becomes smaller.
4. If you would serve God, then there must first be surrender. If you would overcome, then there must be obedience.
5. To serve God as He desires, everything you do must be done because of your love for the Lord.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. What Israel experienced in settling their promised land is very much like the life of a Christian. The challenges, fears, victories, defeats, peace, beauty, satisfaction, and the questions they faced are so much like what we Christians encounter every day.
2. Israel could have never had a land nor occupied it had not God planned it all and then did it all for them. The believer could never have had eternal life if God had not planned it all and then did it all for us.
3. God asks that His Children obey Him, serve Him, and be a witness to others about Him, His Way.