

## Make Up Your Mind

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Israel, the leader also reminded them of their failures. He told them how they continued to backslide from God and repeatedly had to be rescued from the consequences of their poor choices. Many of God's deliverances were because the people had not learned their lesson and still were of two opinions.

Sometimes they served God, and other times they served the losing side and its false gods. Trying to live for God was a constant struggle for them. Their minds were not entirely made up, or they would not have repeatedly made the same mistakes.

No matter the loyalty of Israel to God, it was not a hard decision for Joshua. His mind was already made up. He had decided who His God was and that he would be faithful in obedience. It was no longer a struggle for him whom he would serve when he said: *"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* Jos. 24:14-15

Israel's leader used interesting words in describing many of the people's desire not to serve God. He used, "... if it seem evil". This

indicates that some people thought that serving their Creator and Protector was physically, socially, or morally bad for them. This thinking is not unlike the thoughts today of many. Too many think serving God and obeying his commandments are unprofitable to them because:

**They will miss all the fun if they follow God's commands.** Sin is only "fun" for a short time.

*"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;" Heb. 11:25*

**They do not know that there is a price tag for sin.** No one gets away with sin. Sin always does damage and only gives short-lived satisfaction (Hebrews 11:25).

*"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Proverb 28:13*

**His way is not the world's way.** By following His way, they will appear strange and different to others. They will not fit in. Yes, God's way is different. Yes, you will not "fit in" if you are obedient to God, but why do you want to be like the losing side? God's way is always better. He has raised trillions of children, and His ways are the best.

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

*Isaiah 55:9*

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# The Bible View



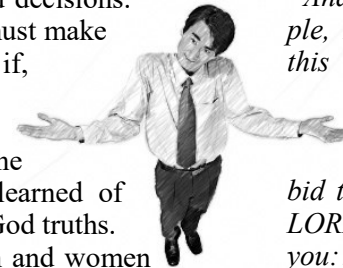
*A free publication from: [www.OpenThouMineEyes.com](http://www.OpenThouMineEyes.com) Vol.: 828*

## As For Me, I Will...

*Bill Brinkworth*

Committing to the Lord can be difficult and should involve conviction-led decisions.

A Christian must make up his mind if, when, and how he will obey what he has seen or learned of the Word of God truths.



Many men and women of the past and present have had the tugging of the Holy Spirit encouraging them to obey God's commandments, and they did. Their convictions and determinations to do what God spoke to their hearts to do should be models for Christians. Here are some decisions of many Bible characters and what they were convicted to do.

Joshua decided that no matter what those around him were doing, he would serve the Lord.

*"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will*

*serve the LORD."* Joshua 24:15

No matter what others did, Samuel was determined not to sin.

*"And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD;... 23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:..."* I Samuel 12:20-23

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Before Joshua's death, Israel's leader gathered his people together. He reminded them of all the mighty things God had done for them and their fathers. Joshua rehearsed how God took, gave, sent, plagued, brought, put, destroyed, and delivered for them in over 17 instances (Joshua 24:3-13).

In the remembrances of the great helps God had done for

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## As For Me, I Will...

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David was determined to build a great work for the Lord. Although God would not allow him to build the temple because of his past deeds, David provided all the necessary items for its construction and operation. He did what he could.

*“And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: 8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying ... thou shalt not build an house unto my name...” I Chronicles 22:7-10 Also: I Chronicles 28:2, 29:17.*

Job was determined not to be a complainer.

*“As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?” Job 21:4*

David determined to rely on God’s protection and honor God.

*“As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.” Psalm 55:16 Also: Psalm 17:8-15.*

David was determined to be obedient to God. One of God’s commandments was for all to attend the temple services and to worship God, and he did.

*“But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.”*

*Psalm 5:7*

David was determined to abide by the standards God had shown him to uphold.

*“... 11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.”*

*Psalm 26:9-11*

David was determined to humble himself before his enemies and not to return evilness to other’s wickedness.

*“... they laid to my charge things that I knew not. 12 They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. 13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.”*

*Psalm 35:11-13*

David was determined to have a consistent prayer life.

*“But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time...” Psalm 69:13*

Jeremiah was determined not to quit the task God called him to do.

*“As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before thee.” Jer. 17:16*

Jeremiah was determined to tell others what God wanted them to know, even if it cost him his life.

*“Then spake Jeremiah unto all*

*the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. 13 Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God... 14 As for me, behold... do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you. 15 But... that if ye put me to death ...” Jeremiah 26:12-15*

Daniel was determined not to be selfish with the wisdom God had given him. He made sure he shared it with those that would be helped by God’s truths.

*“But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.” Daniel 2:30*

Being born-again into the family of God by salvation is only the beginning. After one is saved (Romans 10:9), God must and will do much “house cleaning” in a person’s character, if He is allowed.

A Christian is to be Christ-like and to be like Him the new creature in Christ should find himself a changed person. Worldly thoughts and behaviors often are swept from a believer’s life, and different desires and behaviors will be proof of the Holy Spirit’s work in their lives. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old*

*things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*

*II Corinthians 5:17*

Christian, has the convicting Holy Spirit urged you to make changes in your lifestyle and character? Heed his prompting to make even the “little” changes in your personality, and how you react to situations you will face.

As for you, what will you do with God’s Words? Determine to do what He has shown you to do. If you do, you will discover yourself to be the new creature God desires you to be.

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**They only see the now and forget the eternal.** There is life after death. There is an eternity in either Heaven or Hell. What sense is there in missing Heaven for temporal satisfaction in a relatively short time here on Earth?

*“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”*

*Mark 8:36*

The world’s excuses for not serving God have always been the same. The reasons come from a similar rebellious and disobedient heart. No matter the time, the answer to God can be the same as Joshua’s, *“... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)* No matter what others think or do, we can always be different and do right!

**“ALWAYS** do right.

**This will gratify some people and astonish the others.” — Mark Twain**