

2024 BIBLE STUDY SERIES
THEME: “GET YOUR HOPES UP!”

November 13, 2024

AUTHENTIC CHRISTIAN LIVING
“Home Life of the Christian” (Part 2)
Joshua 24:14-15

Topics

- Reflection Questions
- Important Emphasis
- Key Terms
- Scripture Reference
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- Introduction
- Background And Context
- Exploring The Text
- Check For Understanding

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- A. Name one specific rule or tradition that was common and consistent in your home as a child.

- B. Who was the strongest influence in your household when it came to modeling Christian behavior?

- C. What kinds of memorable things do you recall seeing your parents do when they did not see you looking?

Important Emphasis

The greatest problems are moral and Spiritual. *D Elton Trueblood*

There is something that we have to contend with and that is spiritual bankruptcy. We find ourselves in the desert as Richard Foster suggests.

When we are speaking concerning the Christian Life, we need to monitor the lens through which we see life spiritually, emotionally, and physically. The term is Weltanschauung the world view where we synthesize [fuse, blend, or combine] our academic and biblical training. *Celebration of Discipline*

Communication with your Family

Covenant with the Father

Community of Faith

Convictions in a Fallen World

These four areas are very important to the vitality or the health of your everyday home life. Accountability is necessary in each area which leads to the wholeness of the child of God. To accomplish this we need to have a strong prayer life. Prayer is a sweet sinking into Deity. *Madame Guyon*

Joshua 24:14-15 It is not strange to find this scripture on the external door of a resident or a welcoming mat in front of the door, but what is more profitable is that it resides in your heart.

Joshua is the understudy, or the mentee of Moses and he has encountered challenges in his era of leadership. In these moments of difficulty, Joshua must sound a clarion view of his involvement with God.

Depth of Good Decision Making

Decisions ...Decisions... Decisions

What does it mean to make good decision. Those decisions should be God led decisions. Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit is pivotal to good decision making which makes up the quality of your spiritual life. 1 Samuel 30:8

Theodore Hesburgh, former president of Notre Dame University admonished:

You don't make decisions because they're Easy;

You don't make decisions because they're Cheap.

You don't make decisions because they're Popular.

You make decisions because they're Right.

The answer lies in the fact that the secret of your success is determined by your daily agenda (and your daily decisions). You will never change your life until you change something you do daily.

“The classical disciplines of Spiritual life call us to move beyond surface living into the depths. They invite us to explore the inner caverns of the spiritual realm.” Luke 22:42

Performing of the Promise by God Joshua 24:1-13

- Took
- Gave
- Sent
- Brought

Because God has done all of these things well they should fear the Lord because he has been Faithful.

Fear the Lord vs. 14a

Serve in sincerity and truth vs. 14b

Dispense with your gods vs. 14c

Good Decisions - daily Discipline = A plan without a payoff

Daily Discipline - Good Decisions = Regimentation without Reward

Good Decisions + Daily Discipline = A Masterpiece of Potential

John C. Maxwell

KEY TERMS

Bible study
Choices
Commitment
Communication
Consecration
Deliberate
Discipleship
Example
Family
God

Head
Household
Intentional
Leader
Leadership
Lord
Love
Obedience
Personal
Prayer

Remember
Responsibility
Sanctifying
Serve
Spiritual
Teaching
Truth
Unit
Unity
Unwavering

Scripture Reference (Joshua 24:14-15 NASB)

¹⁴ “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.

¹⁵ 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.”

Outline

- I. Revere the Lord and Serve Him
 - A. Serve in awe of the Lord
 - B. Serve in sincerity
 - C. Serve in truth
- II. Respect the Lord and Serve Him
 - A. Set apart from your past
 - B. Set apart from other gods
 - C. Set up with the one true God

INTRODUCTION

Andrew Murray, a 17th Century South African minister, theologian, and author observed that God was awakening in many hearts the desire to live a truly consecrated life, to be and do all that He would have of us. They also yearned for their loved ones to partake in this blessing. Murray further asserted that **sanctifying** home life proves challenging for some parents due to past shortcomings, lack of spiritual support, and reluctance from family members to fully engage in this transformative journey.

As King Solomon declared, "...there is no new thing under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The current chaotic state of our country and many other areas in the world, is motivating many to get closer to God. They desire a more consecrated life for them and their families. A consecrated life, as discussed in previous lessons, is a challenge that begins with individuals, specifically starting from the household head to the children.

Throughout biblical narratives involving figures like Noah, Abraham, and Israel, the importance of family unity in divine commands and promises is emphasized. Covenant language often includes phrases like 'Thou and thy house' (**Acts 16:31**), 'Thou and thy seed' (**Genesis 15:5**), 'ye and your children' (**Joel 1:3**) highlighting the significance of family in the eyes of God.

In the words of Joshua we have the response from earth, "as for me and my house... (**Joshua 24:15**).” The principle of the Divine dealing is accepted; the parent boldly vouches for his family as well as himself; the covenant engagement of the Father in heaven is met by the covenant obligation of the father [Joshua] on earth.

The first thing on the part of the parent is a life devoted to God and His service. It is this that creates the **spiritual atmosphere** the children are to breathe. It is this that gives our performance of duty and our dealings with our children their spiritual influence.

The family unit is the primary place for the discipleship of our children. But the church *can* and *should* play an exciting and important part in displaying and proclaiming the gospel to our children and raising them to be those who love Jesus and see how his kindness and grace wonderfully impacts everything. (**Deuteronomy 6:1-9**)

Joshua is to us here the very model of a godly parent, and in him we can see what parental religion ought to be. It is a personal religion—"As for me and my house," he began with himself. It cannot be stressed enough that for a godly education the first and the most essential requisite is **personal consecration**.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Joshua fulfilled his dual tasks of conquering and dividing the land among the people with courage and obedience. At 110 years old, he followed in the footsteps of his ancestors by ensuring the future well-being of his people, imparting wisdom and guidance similar to Moses, emphasizing _____ and _____.

Joshua 24:14-15 guides us towards a godly home by emphasizing the importance of a deliberate and _____ choice to serve God as a family unit, where the head of the household sets the example by actively leading their family in worshipping and following God's teachings, demonstrating unwavering _____ to God above all else, even if others around them choose differently; essentially, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

During Joshua's time, society was very patriarchal-- a system of society or government controlled by men. Therefore, the head of the household was typically the husband. However, not all households had a male presence or in the case of "mixed" marriages there may have been a non-Jewish husband.

This was the case with Timothy's parents. His mother was Jewish, and his father was Greek or a gentile. In this instance, Timothy's religious training was conducted by his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois (**2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-15; Acts 16:1**). It is certain that this situation made for some challenging _____ dynamics within the household. However, Timothy seems to have thrived in his spiritual growth under the circumstances.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. According to Andrew Murray, what causes home life to be challenging for some parents?
2. What is motivating many to get closer to God today?
3. In the biblical narratives involving Noah, Abraham, and Israel, what is emphasized as important?

EXPLORING THE TEXT

I. Revere the Lord and Serve Him (24:14)

¹⁴ “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.

- A. Serve in _____ of the Lord
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (**Proverbs 9:10**). This relates more to respect and reverence for God than actual fear in its modern definition. Fearing God is knowing God, and this is where true wisdom lies. Proverbs also teaches us that people must submit to God’s will. By doing so, we acquire wisdom. The fear of God creates a deep desire to obey and please God above all things, not wanting to disappoint Him and also taking into consideration having to give an account of ourselves before Him.
- B. Serve in _____
Serving God with seriousness requires a commitment of time, work, and determination. It involves taking seriously what matters to God, such as lost souls, poverty, and injustice. It also requires that we be determined, selfless, willing to sacrifice, be respectful, be involved (church and community), pray, advocate for others (**Philippians 2:3-4**), care for the vulnerable (**Matthew 25:40**).
- C. Serve in _____
We accomplish this by living and serving in such a way that God receives the glory. Then we are truthful; otherwise we commit unrighteousness.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

4. What does it mean to fear God? (24:14)
5. What does it require to serve God with seriousness? (24:14)
6. How do we serve God in truth? (24:14)

EXPLORING THE TEXT

II. Respect the Lord and Serve Him (24:15)

¹⁵ 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.”

- A. Set apart from _____
Abraham and his family were idolaters prior to being chosen by God to be an example to other pagan nations. Joshua challenges the Israelites—Abraham's descendants--concerning their sincerity in serving the one true God. They swore to Moses on several occasions that they would be obedient to the Word of God and His covenant (**Exodus 24:7**); obey His commandments and statutes (**Deuteronomy 27:10**); and to make tassels to help them _____ and obey God's commandments (**Numbers 15:37-41**).

Do you have any idols from your past that may be hindering your spiritual growth?

- B. Set apart from _____
Some of the Israelites began worshiping the pagan gods of the Amorites. Joshua warned them (**24:16-18**) that their ancestors had backslidden before, and it was possible for them to do the same if they were not careful to remember the consequences. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was a jealous God and would not tolerate the Israelites having any other god before Him.
- C. Set up with the _____
Joshua reminded the Israelites that Moses had urged them to obey God's commandments to find true freedom and to avoid going astray. He reminded them of the hardships they had endured in Egypt and how God had freed them. He also told them that if they obeyed God, they would become a successful and powerful nation.

In any event, whatever the Israelites decided to do, Joshua very strongly let them know that **“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”** (24:16).

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

7. What did the Israelites swear to Moses that they would do? (24:15)
8. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was what type of God? (24:15)
9. What did Moses tell the Israelites they needed to do to be successful and powerful nation? (24:15)

Life Application

- What can you do in the next 30 days to improve the spiritual atmosphere in your home?
- How can your church assist you in discipling your children?

Resources:

- Bible History Old Testament
- “The Children For Christ: Thoughts for Christian Parents on the Consecration of the Home Life” by Andrew Murray
- “Christian Living in the Home” by Jay E. Adams

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To further explore this topic, you may be interested to read [“A Theology of AI by a Bible Software Nerd”](#) by Mark Ward and [“How Should We Think about AI & Bible Study”](#) by Mark Barnes, published on *Word by Word*.

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