

The Thrill of Choosing God

Fuel Your Faith 1

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As you think about serving God, what is your first motivation? Do you think first of the joy He has in his heart for you and how much God wants to show you his love? Or, is it your inclination to think more of the obligation or duty you have before Him?

Today on Fuel Your Faith, we'll talk about how concentrating on God's love makes all the difference.

There is a very popular passage found in [Joshua 24.15](#) I want us to consider today. I know many who have this decisively bold statement listed as one of their favorite verses. Some even have the verse framed on a wall:

As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.

– [Joshua 24.15](#)

What does Joshua mean when he says “we will worship the Lord?” This is in the context of making a choice between serving the pagan gods of Canaan vs. *the* God. Joshua says this in a way that emphasizes the great value and supreme worth of God. For him it was exciting to serve the Lord. When we focus on God's love and care ... see Him for who He is ... it will be thrilling for us to submit to him.

Let's look back into the context to see what would make it exciting for him to choose God. [Joshua 24.2-12](#) tell the story.

- God gave Abraham descendants ...
- God defeated Egypt freeing Israel from slavery.
- He saved them at the Red Sea and as they entered the wilderness.
- God annihilated those who made war against them
- He rescued Israel from the curses of Balaam.

Perhaps this sums it up best when God was speaking to Israel through Joshua:

It was not by your sword or bow. I gave you a land you did not labor for, and cities you did not build, though you live in them; you are eating from vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.' “Therefore, fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth.

– [Joshua 24.12b-14a](#)

Joshua saw how God moved by grace in giving Israel everything it had. How could his heart not have been touched? What else would he get to experience because of the goodness and care of

God? What more would God do to show His heart of love? How else would God hand out His blessings?

For Joshua, he couldn't wait to see what else was coming ... so the statement he makes in v. 15 is the natural choice. *As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.*

This is far different from seeing God primarily through the lens of threats and warnings of punishment. Do you do what He says in a way that only calls attention to the fact that He is an authority and not a treasure? While He certainly commands our life, the way to a more powerful and sustainable spiritual life is found in responding to His great love.

Today is a great day to spend a few moments alone and recount God's loving intervention in your life. Where would you be if it weren't for His taking the initiative and guiding you through providence? Think today on how God has demonstrated His love and care for you. As you do, you'll be amazed at how your heart and attitude toward spiritual service will change.

Love is the motivator for our service.

Thanks for listening today and we invite you back tomorrow as we continue to focus on this vital topic for the child of God.

– Matthew Allen
