

## **ARE YOU PASSING THE PANDEMIC TEST?**

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, 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. 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. 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. 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.

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, so that you will not associate with these nations, these which remain among you, or mention the name of their gods, or make *anyone* swear *by them*, or serve them, or bow down to them.

But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.  
Joshua 23:1-8

“Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed. Joshua 23:14

## **RECOUNT TO YOUR FAMILY GOD’S BLESSINGS**

You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho; and the citizens of Jericho fought against you, *and* the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Girgashite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. Thus I gave them into your hand. Then I sent the hornet before you and it drove out the two kings of the Amorites from before you, *but* not by your sword or your bow. I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.’ Joshua 24:11-13

**Has God blessed you? Talk about it often.**

## **DON’T DRIFT, MAKE A CHOICE!**

“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. 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; Joshua 24:14-15a

Joshua is drawing a line in the sand for us, too: Choose this day whom you will serve.

## **Choose Daily to Serve the Lord**

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” Joshua 24:15b

Oh God, give us the strength and commitment to answer along with Joshua, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15b  
"I was looking for a man to stand in the gap so I would not have to curse the land, but I could find none".  
Ezekiel 22:30

"There will be a messenger who will come who will restore the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers so that I will not have to curse the land". Malachi 4:4

The people answered and said, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed. The Lord drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." Then Joshua said to the people, "You will not be able to serve the Lord, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; Joshua 24:16-19

**If our DEVOTION is based on WHAT GOD DOES FOR US AND NOT WHO HE IS, we will waver according to how we understand our circumstances.**

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Phillipian 4:13

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

**The one thing that really matters in this world is our relationship to God.**

The people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord." Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve Him." And they said, "We are witnesses." "Now therefore, put away the foreign gods which are in your midst, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and we will obey His voice." Joshua 24:21-24

Then Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of one hundred and ten. And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. All that generation also were gathered to their fathers; and there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals, and they forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from *among* the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the Lord to anger. So they forsook the Lord and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. Judges 2:8-13

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Q1: Trials don't DESTROY your faith, they TEST your faith. Share a time that you felt like something or someone was destroying your faith.

Q2: One way to stand firm in God's promises is by RECOUNTING GOD'S BLESSINGS. Spend a couple minutes recounting some of God's blessings in your life recently.

Q3: We are to serve God because of WHO HE IS and not WHAT HE DOES. Why is that distinction important?