

Transforming Daily
“ . . . serve the Lord . . . ”
Joshua 24:15

I'm not certain if this verse is the key verse for the book of Joshua, but as far as I'm concerned it should be. The book of Joshua is a wonderful story of obedience, faith, revival, conflict and victory. I was so influenced by the book and life of Joshua that I named my son Joshua. Of course his first name is David, but he goes by Joshua or Josh.

What is so outstanding about the book of Joshua, aside from God's faithfulness, is the life of Joshua revealed in its verses. Joshua was with the first 12 spies of Moses. Joshua and Caleb were the only two obedient servants in the lot. Joshua was there, a young man, at Moses' side. He knew what the score was. Nothing was hidden from him. Joshua did his part; he battled right alongside the rest of them. He suffered the trials and frustrations because of the lack of character and integrity on the part of others. I'm sure he buried his share of bodies along the wilderness way. He even saw his mentor lose his cool. Joshua also was there when God forbade Moses from going into Canaan. Yet when the time came for him to receive the mantle of leadership, he didn't shrink back or shirk the responsibility. Joshua was a true servant of the Lord.

Someone might say, "Yeah, but Joshua was the Lord's anointed." All of us who bear God's name are His anointed. We have been chosen to bear His name and to do His will. Joshua knew no more of what God was going to do with his life than you do of what God is going to do with yours. It wasn't that Joshua knew that God was going to choose him to lead the Israelites that motivated him to be a godly, obedient, loyal, and faithful servant; it was precisely because Joshua was a man of godly character and integrity that God chose him to lead the children of Israel.

In the 21st century, the motivation for "faithful" service to God is presuming that God is going to move the one making the claim to the "next level" (whatever that is [sarcasm intended]). Usually it is a perverted or at best a miscontextualized claim on God's Word for physical and financial "blessings" rationalized by the claimant that it indicates the personal favor of God specifically on their lives. Please don't be deceived, my brethren. There is no substitute for godly character and integrity brought about through one's humility and submission before God, and motivated by no other reason than to please Him. In other words, the believer is to live a life of gratitude for what God has done for them through Jesus Christ, not a life of greed for what one thinks they can get God to do for them using the name of Jesus Christ.

Where are you in your service to God? Would you even consider yourself a servant of God; a child, yes, even a son, but a servant? Are you expecting "something more" from God because you go to church or give offerings? Why do you give? Why do you serve? Strings attached? When you share about your service to God is there more about you in the testimony than Him? Remember, in Christ, we are to serve the Lord.