

Our Conflicts in This Human Life.

Joshua 24:14 – 24

Why do Christians have spiritual and fleshly conflicts? It is because even though God has saved us and given us a living spirit, even though the Holy Spirit lives in us, and even though we have been taught Truth from the bible, we still have spiritual and fleshly conflicts. Someday, after we are with the Lord and no longer have a nature of flesh in us, than we will be able to properly serve only the Lord our God. The difference between Christians and lost people is Christians has some choices in life while lost people can only serve God. This is why Joshua said, “...*but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” V. 15 However, this scripture is not a choice about salvation, because salvation is not a human choice, it is a gracious gift from God. When Joshua said, “...*choose you this day whom ye will serve...*” V. 15 He was talking about those that had the spiritual understanding and ability to serve God, that is the saved. The conflict in this life is between our spiritual nature and our fleshly nature, choices and decisions can only be made when one has the option, lost souls have no option.

Let's look at this more clearly in God's word.

- A. Lost people have no choices or decision's concerning God, therefore no conflicts.
 1. Contrary to what many people say, salvation is not a choice for people to make. God said in, **Ephesians 2:7 - 8** “*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*”
 2. John wrote in **John 1:12 - 13** “*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*” - - When God said “*But as many as received him...*” He was not referring to salvation as a choice but pinpointing those that did believe.
 3. God said of a lost soul that they are (1) dead in spirit, (2) blinded by Satan and sin, and (3) At enmity with God. A lost soul will never desire true salvation because.
 - a. Them being dead in spirit make them unable to see, hear, or able to believe on Jesus Christ since believing is spiritual.

- b. Them being blinded by Satan and sin means they cannot hear nor see the true gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - c. The very fact that they are at enmity with God means they hate the True God and have no real desire to be saved.
4. No where, not one single scripture tells man to choose or decide to be saved, it always says salvation is by God's grace and power.
- B. Conflicts are only in the saved, who have two natures.
- 1. Since we are saved our battle is within. Some Christians are worse than others.
 - 2. We were once the same as this world. **Ephesians 2:1 - 5** "*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (5) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*"
 - 3. God told us to separate from them. **2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18** "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (15) And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? (16) **And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?** for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (18) And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*"
 - 4. Acts 2:40 "*And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*" – God is telling us to preserve ourselves from the influence, opinions, and fate of this generation. We cannot do this if we are walking with them.

C. The conflicts are not just within, but all around us.

1. The world truly hates Christians. Jesus said in *John 15:18 - 19* “*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. (19) If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*”
2. These people in the world that are lost belong to Satan, he is their father. **John 8:42 - 44** “*Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (43) Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. (44) Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*”
3. Why can't Christians understand, **John 8:45** “*And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*”

D. Our conflict is with Satan himself.

1. **Ephesians 6:12** “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.***”
2. He opposes the True Gospel. **2 Corinthians 4:3 - 4** “*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (4) In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*”
3. Paul wrote that their fight is the fake gospel. **2 Corinthians 4:5** “*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*”
That is salvation through themselves or by works, that is Satan's gospel.
4. Our conflict is also with Satan's workers. **2 Corinthians 11:13 - 15** “*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*”
5. Today, because of Satan only a few truly believe God's Truth.

6. Do not have conflicts, they are avoidable, as Joshua said, “...*but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*” V. 15 In Spirit and Truth.
7. Where do we stand, are we serving God, are you serving God?