

# But as for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord

## Joshua 24:15

### Introduction

One of the most popular Scriptures for hanging on the walls of a home is Joshua 24:15: "But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." That is the most succinct verse in the Bible about a family-wide commitment to God. It's a bold proclamation, a defiant declaration that regardless of what others do, we will build our marriages and raise our children for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Background

Chapter by chapter through the book of Joshua, we see how this godly man led the Israelites into the Promised Land, and how he directed the conquest and division of the land.

### Exposition

Chapter 23 is Joshua's Farewell Message and in chapter 24, He led the Israelites to reaffirm their Covenant with God.

Joshua 23:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> After a long time had passed and the Lord had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man, <sup>2</sup> summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: "I am very old. <sup>3</sup> You yourselves have seen everything the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the Lord your God who fought for you."

Joshua 23:14 (NIV®)

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. [In other words, he was nearing his death]. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."

Joshua 23:15-16 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> "But just as all the good things the Lord your God has promised you have come to pass, so He will bring on you all the evil things He has threatened...<sup>16</sup> If you violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which He commanded you and go to serve other gods and bow down to them..."

Joshua 24:1 (NIV®)

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV®)

<sup>14</sup> "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshipped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

## Ten Ways to Establish a Godly Home

1. Tell the Lord every day in one way or another that you belong to Him and that your one desire is to be faithful to Jesus Christ.
2. Spend time each day reading your Bible and praying.
3. Share the verses you come across with your spouse, or children, or grandchildren in a conversational way.
4. Offer prayers of thanksgiving over meals.
5. Tuck your children in every night with a Bible verse and prayer. Send them off to school the next morning with the same.
6. Be involved in a good, solid local church, which is the family of God on earth.
7. If you lose your temper or have a bad moment in the home, confess and apologize, and then work on overcoming any issues you have, even if it requires counseling. Let your children see your efforts at spiritual growth.
8. When hardship comes, trust the Lord, and let your children and loved ones see you relying on Christ in the storms.
9. Keep impure entertainment or images out of your home and be careful about what you allow into your home environment. Monitor your children's devices and homework.
10. Fill your home and car with Christian music, both the classic hymns and the newer music.

## Conclusion

Joshua 24:24-25 (NIV®)

<sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him." <sup>25</sup> On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God.

Joshua 24:29-31 (NIV®)

<sup>29</sup> After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. <sup>30</sup> And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. <sup>31</sup> Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.