**ARE YOU ON THE LORD’S SIDE**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

In this life, who you know or associate with or you are friends with can have great impact on your physical or material success in life. Today we have the social media where people are trying hard to build all kinds of **connections, associations** and **relationships**. How much “Likes” and “Followers” you have now become very important to people.

In reality, the most important thing is not how many people are following you but who are you following.

* Those you are following, who are they following?
* It is dangerous to follow someone who is not following the ALMIGHTY GOD

If you are following them, then they are leading you – the blind cannot lead the blind (Matt 15v14)

* 1 Cor 11v1: Follow me as I follow CHRIST
1. **WHAT DOES SIDE MEAN IN THIS CONTEXT?**

Side in this context denotes several things such as our:

1. Beliefs
2. Perception
3. World view
4. Choices
5. Standards

**BELIEFS**

**The** [**feeling**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/feeling) **of being** [**certain**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/certain) **that something** [**exists**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/exist) **or is** [**true**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/true):

*His belief in* [*God*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/god) *gave him* [*hope*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hope) *during* [*difficult*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/difficult)[*times*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/times)*. (Cambridge Dictionary)*

An acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof. (Oxford Dictionary)

**PERCEPTIONS** (Assumptions)

A [belief](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/belief) or [opinion](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/opinion), often [held](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/held) by many [people](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/people) and [based](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/base) on how things [seem](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/seem) (Cambridge English)

The ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses. (Oxford English)

**WORLD VIEW**

A way of [thinking](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/thinking) about the [world](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/world) (Cambridge English)

A particular philosophy of life or conception of the world. (Oxford English)

*‘A Christian world view revolves around the battle of good and evil’*

**CHOICES**

An [**act**](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/act) or the [possibility](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/possibility) of [choosing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/choosing) (Cambridge English)

An **act** of choosing between two or more possibilities. (Oxford English)

*‘The choice between good and evil’*

* Act denotes action not just words
* Some say that they believe in the ALMIGHTY GOD but their actions say the opposite
1. Joshua: Choose you this day who you will serve (Joshua 24 v 14 -15)

V14: Fear the LORD

V15: Serve HIM with sincerity

V15: Joshua had to make **his own choice after stressing to convince the people**

1. The last word of the angel in the end of the BIBLE (Revelation 22 v11 -12)
* V11: The angel saith “Let him that is unjust continue to be unjust”!!!!
* V12 LORD JESUS added : **Behold I come quickly, MY reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be**
1. Levites chose to be on the LORD’s side (Ex 32 v 22 -29)

V26: Who is on the LORD’s side – only the Levites chose to be on GOD’s side

* The Levites that were cursed had their destiny changed by being on the LORD’s side (Gen 49 v 5-7)
* Even the thief on the cross was the first to be saved by just being on the LORD’s side

V27-28: **The Levites obeyed the WORD of GO even to the point of killing their immoral brothers! This is tough choice!**

1. Other examples of choices
* The ALMIGHTY GOD gave man the power of choice, for we are not robots. The BIBLE is full of example of choices (Adam and Eve, Moses chose GOD side in Egypt, Esther etc)
* Deuteronomy 28: Choices
* The BIBLE advices us to “Chose life”
* **Chose the straight and narrow path** ……. The biggest choice (John 3v16)
* **Even LORD JESUS chose to die for us (I have the power to lay MY life down): John 10v18**

**STANDARDS** (What stand do you take if the WORD of GOD clashes with societal views?)

A [moral](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/moral) [rule](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/rule) that should be [obeyed](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/obey) (Cambridge English)

*Most* [*people*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/people)[*agree*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/agree) *that there are standards (of* [*behaviour*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/behaviour)*) that need to be* [*upheld*](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/upheld)*.*

Principles of conduct informed by notions of honour and decency (Oxford English)

*‘A decline in moral standards’*

* ***Mode of dressing also indicate the level of moral standard you have***
* *Gucci, Armani etc …who are they? Are they born again?*

*+ Some say you don’t judge a book by the cover but* ***the ripeness of a fruit is also seen on the exterior***

* Act 4v19: Judge for yourself if we rather obey you than GOD
* Act 5 v 28 -29: We ought to obey GOD than men
1. **THE BATTLES YOU WILL FIGHT DEPENDS ON YOUR STAND WITH THE LORD**

**BIBLE NARRATIVE: Joshua 5 v 13 – 15**

V13: Joshua was facing a big challenge/battle i.e. Jericho, a walled city

* Some issue are as tough as a walled city which on the LORD can take care of it

V13: Joshua lifted up his eyes and looked – THE LORD IS in the battle!

* Of the LORD is in the battle and we do not recognise HIM

V13: The Captain of the Host of the ALMIGHTY GOD had a sword drawn .ready for battle!!!

 V13: Are you for us or our enemies, Joshua asked?

* There is **your position**, the **other person's position** and ALMIGHTY GOD's position.
* THE ALMIGHTY GOD CAN BE NEUTRAL

V14: We should not just assume that because we are "Israel" that GOD is on our side

V14: Joshua fell on his face and worshipped (humility)

* **The Captain of the LORD OF HOST must GOD to have been worshipped**

(15)There is a condition of "Holiness" for GOD to be on our side

* “Holiness” mean complete obedience to the WORD OF GOD
* Of course we know that Joshua and the rest simply had to sing, shout and go round the wall 7 times for it to fall …. Showing DIVINE ASSISTANCE

+ The story of Jehoshaphat

1. **CONCLUSION AND PRAYER**

It pays to be on the side of the ALMIGHTY GOD, the side of our LORD JESUS and the side of the HOLY GHOST for victory is assured

It might take more effort but it is worth it

**PRAYER**

FATHER please help me to do all that I can to follow you

 DADDY please help me to truly forsake all like Elisha, Peter, Matthew and Apostle Paul to follow YOU

Let it be so LORD, in our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS’ name, Amen