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If It Will Be, It's Up to Me!

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Our lives are filled with decisions that must be made each and every day. There are choices to be made, large and small, important and unimportant. Sometimes we have help making decisions, while other times we must choose on our own. Over the years, God's people have had much difficulty when it comes to obeying and serving Him. The children of Israel were often told to choose for themselves whether they would serve God or not (1 Kings 18:21; Josh 24:15). In John chapter six, Jesus is teaching many about discipleship. Many had difficulties with His sayings and "*from that time many of his disciples went back and walked no more with him.*" Knowing the effect this would have upon His apostles, Jesus turned to the twelve and asked, "*Will ye also go away?*" (Jn 6:66-67). Peter, speaking for the others who all would wisely choose to follow Christ, said, "*Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life*" (v. 68).

Making the decision to be on the Lord's side is a choice that every Christian must make each day. There will be days when standing on the side of right will be extremely difficult, even though we know we must (1 Cor 16:13; Phil 4:1; 1 Thess 3:8; 2 Thess 2:15). Christians must follow after righteousness and stand on the Lord's side each and every day. Following after righteousness means that one must consciously choose to eschew or flee from evil and do good (1 Pet 3:11). Standing on the Lord's side means to "*follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*" (1 Tim 6:11). It means following "*not that which is evil, but that which is good*" (3 Jn 1:11). Christians have a great responsibility to be an example for others to see (1 Tim 4:12; Titus 2:7; 1 Pet 5:3). Christians also have a God-given responsibility to preach and teach the Gospel message to ears that will hear (Mt 28:19-20; Mk 16:15-16; Lk 8:5-8). When we all search, find, and seize opportunities to serve God by carrying on His will, bringing His Word to those who desire to know Him, standing and fighting for and with Christ as His soldiers (1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 2:3), we will begin to see a growth – not only in numbers, but more importantly, spiritually. Our love one for another will be closer to how God desires for it to be (Jn 13:34-35; 1 Pet 1:22; 1 Jn 4:11-12).

Decisions, decisions! Life is full of decisions! Just as the children of God were asked long ago, we must be continually asked even today to “*choose you this day whom ye will serve...*” Please remember the importance and need of each individual member of the body (1 Cor 12:12, 22-23; Eph 5:30), and then be willing to accept your part in the building and nurturing of the body (the church). Jesus said that “few” will walk upon the narrow way and be saved (Mt 7:14). Indeed, those who make the decision to follow Jesus are few. It is also true that few will choose to do the Lord’s will by changing self and then changing the world around us. Margaret Mead was an early American anthropologist who once wrote, “*Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For indeed, that’s all who ever have.*” It would do us good to have the attitude that says “**if it will be, it’s up to me.**” Knowing what God did and continues to do for you, will you be one of the few who will change the world for Him?