



## Joshua's Bucket List

In 2007 the movie "The Bucket List" starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman inspired many people to think about what they wanted to do before they died. I have never made an official "bucket list" but there are a few things I hope to do before my life here on earth is complete. Near the top of my list is to visit to the Netherlands (where both of my parents were from) during the Tulip Festival. I would also love to spend some time walking the ancient streets of Israel retracing some of the steps that Jesus and his disciples took.

Near the end of the book of Joshua we read about the number one thing on Joshua's "bucket list", something that was not even for himself but for others. This compilation of verses from chapter 23 should give you a clue as to what he wanted for God's people:

"Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left" (v6). "But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now" (v8). "So be very careful to love the Lord your God" (v11). In verse 14 he brings it all home, "You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed."

Joshua wanted what was best for the people as he was getting ready to "go the way of the earth". His greatest concern was for the people and their relationship with the Lord. With one last opportunity Joshua addressed the whole nation, an address that I can only imagine was delivered with incredible passion and deep heartfelt emotion. Beside each

verse quoted here Joshua also gives a sharp warning of what comes if the people do fall into the temptation of doing life on their own, without God. With incredible grace and mercy through Christ today we have all we need to stay strong so that when we do fall, he picks us up to journey forward.

From the day Joshua spoke these words to this moment in time here and now and into the future, the promises made by God to his people continue to be trustworthy in their fulfillment. Knowing this brings incredible hope to me and many others who know and follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

What if we took a different perspective on adding things to our bucket list based on Joshua's words? What if as followers of Christ we continue to build our own relationship with the Lord while also focusing on helping others do the same. We can continue to be strong in our own faith while helping someone grow in theirs; we can hold fast to the promises God has made to us and share them with someone who might not know about them.

What if we move our attention away from what we want to what others need? Today more than ever people need Jesus. We have something that so many others need, as a disciple of Jesus a part of our responsibility is to share his incredible love with others.

So, what might we add to our bucket list today? First, pray and ask God how he might inspire you to find a way to share his great love with someone else. Second, write it down and share it with someone close to you and third, do it. Easier said than done, I know. A wise man once said, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Phil 4:13)