

HAVING GOD ON OUR SIDE

Author Unknown

Often, we hear people talk about having God “on their side.” Certainly, the idea is comforting and reassuring. However, does God look at Himself as being “on our side,” even if we are His faithful children? In one way He does, in the sense that He has promised to be with us in our lives as Christians (Mat. 28:20; Heb. 13:5-6). One of the richest blessings the Christian has is that of the abiding presence of God and His constant help.

There is another sense, however, in which it would be presumptuous to view God as being “on our side.” In the days just before the conquest of Jericho, Joshua looked up and saw a man standing near him with a sword in his hand. Obviously startled and momentarily unguarded, Joshua asked him, “**Are you for us or for our adversaries?**” **The soldier answered, “Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come”** (Jos. 5:13-14). The commander of God’s army was on God’s side. Whatever else that meeting did for Joshua, it certainly reminded him that God was not in his army, but that he was fighting for God’s cause.

It is possible for people to approach God with the idea of trying to force Him (or at best, to make Him appear) to be on their side of some issue or dispute. What begs to be understood, however, is that God is not there to line up with us on our side of some human cause; rather, we need to make His cause our cause. We might imagine Him to say, “I’m not joining your team—you need to join mine.”

The question to ask regarding any situation, dispute, doctrine, practice, organization, or personal agenda is not “Whose side is God on?” but rather, “**Who is on the Lord’s side?**” (Exo. 32:26).~