**I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE**

 This is a profound statement from God. What does it mean to belong to the Lord, to have Him as our God, and that He sees us as His people. Let’s consider today three points that I want to bring to you.

1. What does it mean for God to say, “I will be your God.”
2. What does it mean for God to say, “You shall be My people.”
3. Today, how can we be assured that we are the people of God.

**Point 1--**God is the God of Christianity. He is a supreme being. He created all that we know, see, feel, hear, and touch.

His authority is complete. No other is greater than He. God also gave authority to Jesus Christ, Matt. 28:18.

He is unique. He is one of a kind, having a unique nature.

He is eternal. He always has existed and always will exist. He was there in the beginning, Gen. 1:1. “**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” He is the great I AM.**

He is omniscient. He knows all things**. Psalms 139 vs. 1-6**

He is Omnipotent. He is all powerful. Psalms 139 vs. 13-16

He is Omnipresent. He is everywhere at the same time. Psalms 139 vs. 7-12

He is self-existent. God had no beginning, and was not created by something else.

He is Holy, meaning pure and undefiled. He is perfect in every way. Isaiah 6 vs. 3 says “And one called out to another and said “Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.

He has the ability to create life or destroy it.

Let’s read **Genesis 1:26-28**. God created man in His own image.

He had the ability to destroy. **Read Genesis 6:5-7.** God does not need us. But if we are to live, we are to obey God, whether it is to worship Him or to live for Him.

God is a jealous God. **Read Exodus 20:4-6.**  He does not want you to worship idols, but Him.

God will support His people. **Read Ezek. 37:21-28**.

God hates sin, so He gave man who continually sins a way to live eternally with Him. **Read John 3:16-18**. He is a God of compassion.

God is a God that will judge His people. **Revelation 20:12-15**

**Point 2—**What does it mean for God to say, “You shall be My people?

**Read Deut. 26:17-19.**  God has requirements for His people. They cannot rely on His grace if they do not keep His statutes, commandments, His ordinances and listen to His voice.

**Read Jeremiah 11: 1-4**. They were to do according to His commandments. They were to hear the word of His covenant that they were His chosen people.

In the New Testament, the word “disciples is used to refer to God’s people.

**Let’s read John 13:33-35.** Jesus tells us that we are His disciples if we love one another, as He has loved us.

**John 8:31-32** says to abide in His word and you will be His disciples.

**Let’s read 1 John 5:1-4.** To be a disciple of God, as His people, we have to believe. We have to have the love for God that will cause us to desire to keep His commandments. Our faith is what allows us to overcome things of this world.

There are things we do that may cause us not to be His people. **Read Luke 14:26-27, 33**

If we put others first before God, we cannot be His people. If we do not forsake all, we cannot be His disciple. We have to have the right priorities in serving God.

**Point 3—**Today, how can we be assured that we are the people of God?

In looking at who are God’s people, they were called disciples. By reading Acts 11:26, we see the disciples were first call Christians at Antioch. We need to be a disciple of God or as we refer today a Christian.

God became the God of all people. We see that with the conversion of Cornelius that God is no respecter of people.

Acts 11:1 says, “Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

We as Gentiles can be God’s people as Christians

When God and His Son Jesus want us to obey them, it is not doing something to earn your salvation. It is the obedience to His direction we must follow.

In Acts 2:38, the people that were listening to the apostles knew they had put Christ to death. They wanted to know how they could reconcile with God.

**Let’s turn there and read it…Acts 2:38-41, 46-47**

Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and we will be added to Christ’s church.

You don’t have to be perfect to come to Christ. **Let’s read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

These people were in hideous sin. When they became Disciples of Christ, they put away these sins. You can know that you are the people of God if you keep His commandments.

**Let’s read 1 John 2:1-6**

There are a lot of good religious people in this world. But it takes more than being good. We have to do God’s will, not ours. He wants to be our God. Jesus wants to be our savior­­­­­­­­­­n we be assured that we are the people of God? be His people. r sins? st to death. on. d the word of God.. The Holy Spirit wants to lead our lives. We have to want to be in a covenant relationship with God.

Think about these things. Do you want God to say about you, **“I shall be your God and you shall be My people.”**

We have to make a choice. The choice cannot be that I will follow God the way I want to. He will not be our God if **we** set the rules for our relationship.

Are you separated from God? Do you want to change that condition?

Do you believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? Do you want to repent of your sins and be baptized for the remission of your sins? If you want God to be your God, will you come as we stand and sing.