

MAKING RIGHT CHOICES IN 2015

(The choices we make will determine our future)

TODAY I WILL BE SHARING ABOUT FIVE IMPORTANT CHOICES THAT WE NEED TO MAKE CONTINUALLY IN LIFE TO SEE ALL THAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR OUR LIFE COME TO PASS

- **God has much in store for every believer in 2015**
- **However every believer is in a continual spiritual warfare**
- **The Apostle Peter wrote,**
“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” **(1 Peter 5:8-9)**
- **The enemy will continually try and**
 - i) **Side track us**
 - ii) **Discourage us**
 - iii) **Intimidate us through fear, and**
 - iv) **confuse us and to complicate our lives**

To prevent our lives from making a great difference in this world for eternity

- **Today I want to look at five important choices that we need to make on a continual basis if we are to realise our God given destiny in Christ and to make a great difference in the world this year for eternity**

1) We must continually CHOOSE to make our relationship with Jesus Christ our highest priority in life

- All that we do in life must flow out of an abiding and intimate relationship with the LORD

- Jesus Himself said,

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” **(John 15:4-5)**

- Maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord is the key to bearing fruit in our life

- Maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord helps us to:

i) Stay in the centre of God’s will for our life

King David wrote,

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

ii) Helps us to maintain our peace even during the storms of life

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)

iii) Is a key to us experiencing fullness of joy in our life, (the joy of the Lord is our strength)

King David wrote,

“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11)

And

iv) Helps us to remain strong in our faith

Jesus said,

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matthew 24:12-13)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:28-29)

When our love for Jesus Christ is our greatest priority in life, we will keep strong in our faith even during the trials of life. As we go through trials in life we will grow in Christ-like character as long as our love for Jesus is strong

2) We must continually CHOOSE to commit our plans to the Lord (God's plan for our life continually unfolds over time)

- **God's ways are far higher than our ways**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

- **God has a unique plan and destiny for our life – As we follow God's blueprint for our life we will bear much fruit and also help others to come to Christ and to fulfil their God given destiny**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

- **God's plan for our life continually unfolds**

In the book of Psalms we read,

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.” (Psalm 37:23-24)

- We must simply choose to continually commit our plans to the Lord. As we do God will make known His plans for our life
In the book of Proverbs we read,
“Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established.” (Proverbs 16:3)

3) We need to simply CHOOSE to continually trust the Lord in every area of our life

- God knows what we have need of in life even before we ask Him
- With God nothing is impossible – God is both willing and able to help us
The Angel Gabriel said to Mary the mother of Jesus
“For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)
- God loves us more than any other person could ever love us
- We can therefore trust the Lord in every area of our life
- God promises to meet our every single need in life when we put Him first in our life.

- **Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 4:19)**

- **We must simply just choose to trust the Lord in every area of our life**

- **In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” **(Proverbs 3:5-6)**

- **We must simply choose to just do what Jesus tells us to do – That we simply maintain a CHILDLIKE trust in His faithfulness**

- **Our God given destiny will always involve taking steps of faith**

- **In the book of Hebrews we read,**

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

- **When we step out and just to what Jesus tells us to do we will see the miracles in our own life. In the gospel of John we read about the miracle of Jesus turning the water into wine.**

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim.

And He said to them, “Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast.” And they took it.

When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom.

And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” (John 2:1-11)

4) We must continually CHOOSE to be both hearers and doers of the Word

- **The Bible is full of wisdom to help us to make right choices in life**
- **Being a hearer and doer of the Word helps us to have stability in our life and to remain strong during the trials that we all go through in life**
- **Jesus Himself said,**
“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matthew 7:24-27)

- **God has given us His Word to help us to live uncomplicated lives and to help us to embrace the fullness of what God has planned for our life. The Apostle Paul wrote,**
“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:2)

- God knows what is best for us. We must **ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO TRANSFORM OUR WAY OF THINKING AND TO FILL OUR HEART** –That we allow the Word of God to transform our lives so that we walk in victory
- That we would know what to do instinctively in every given situation
- In the book of Colossians the Apostle Paul wrote,

“Let the word of Christ <u>dwell in you richly in all wisdom</u>, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:16)
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- The Word of God gives us wisdom to make good choices in life and gives us keys to living a fruitful and overcoming life

I WILL LOOK AT JUST TWO OF MANY SPIRITUAL KEYS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN THE BIBLE TO HELP US TO GROW STRONG IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD

i) The importance of choosing our friends wisely. The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

ii)The importance of having fellowship with other believers on a consistent basis. In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
(Hebrews 10:23-25)

- **Meditating on the Word of God and applying it to our lives is the key to being prosperous and to having good success in life**

- **The LORD said to Joshua when he was about to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land**

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

- **Jesus Himself said,**

“More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” **(Luke 11:28)**

5) We must CHOOSE to put our past failures and disappointments AND even successes BEHIND US so that we CAN fully embrace the future that God has planned for our life

- **Our past does not have to define our future**

- **God is always the God of the second and third and fourth chances**

- **We have all made mistakes in life**

- **We must refuse to allow our past hurts and disappointments to prevent us from moving on in life**

- **WE MUST CHOOSE TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO HAVE HURT US IN THE PAST**

- **King David wrote,**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)

- **We must refuse to dwell on our past failures**

- **The Apostle Paul wrote,**
 “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do**, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 3:12-14)**

- **When we commit our lives to the Lord we have a great hope and future**

- **In the book of Jeremiah we read,**
 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” **(Jeremiah 29:11)**

 “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.” **(Jeremiah 29:12)**

“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” **(Jeremiah 29:13)**

- **TODAY IS DAY ONE OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE**

- **God has a good plan for your life**

- **God has much in store for you in 2015**
- **BUT LIFE IS FULL OF CHOICES**
- **May I finish by encouraging you today to:**

- 1) Continually CHOOSE to make your relationship with Jesus Christ your highest priority in life**
- 2) That you would continually CHOOSE to commit your plans to the Lord this year so that all that God has planned for your life will come to pass**
- 3) That you would simply just CHOOSE to continually trust the Lord in every area of your life (GOD IS ABSOLUTELY FAITHFUL) – He will bring things to pass**
- 4) That you would continually CHOOSE to be both hearers and doers of the Word so that your life is built on a firm foundation, and**

5) That you would simply CHOOSE to put your past failures and disappointments AND even past successes BEHIND YOU, so that you CAN fully embrace the great future that God has planned for your life

GOD HAS SO MUCH IN STORE FOR OUR LIVES THIS YEAR – Your life this year can make a great difference in this world for eternity as we live in times of great uncertainty. As Christians we have the answer. Christ the solid rock on which we can build our lives. I will finish with 2 Scriptures

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

The word of the Lord came to the Prophet Jeremiah in prison, “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” (Jeremiah 33:3)

God is never limited by our ability, only our availability to live for Him. God has much in store for your life this year. Just believe that your life can make a great difference in the lives of many this year for eternity