

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE

- **The choices that we make in life will:**
 - i) **Determine how fruitful are lives are (every believer has the potential to make a great difference in this world for eternity)**
 - ii) **Will impact the degree to which we walk in victory**
 - iii) **Will determine the degree to which we see God's ongoing favour and blessing upon our lives**
 - iv) **Will determine whether or not we fulfil our God given destiny, and**
 - v) **Will determine our ability to overcome life's temptations. We are now living in lawless times and in a world which is getting more and more ungodly. More than ever before we need to PURPOSELY CHOOSE to make right choices in life continually. It takes a long time to gain a good reputation but it can be quickly lost**
- **I will begin by looking at three important facts that we need to consider in relation to making right choices**

- 1) **We cannot change our past.** God is always a God of the second and third and fourth chances. **BUT WE CAN BEGIN FROM TODAY TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES IN LIFE.** God is able to resurrect broken dreams

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)**

- 2) **God’s desire is that we would live a life of great purpose and meaning and that we would live a life free of anxiety and stress**

Jesus Himself said,

“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

“Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” **(Matthew 11:28-30)**

3) That we have a very real adversary who is out to destroy our faith and lives and to prevent people from being saved and going to heaven. Truly salvation is a miracle

Jesus Himself said,

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. ...” (John 10:10)

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)

- **TODAY I WILL BE QUICKLY LOOKING AT FIVE IMPORTANT CHOICES THAT WE NEED TO CONSISTENTLY MAKE IF WE ARE TO REALISE OUR FULL POTENTIAL IN CHRIST**

1) To continually put the Lord first in our life and plans

- **It is a great key to continually staying in the will of God for our life (The place of God's favour and blessing)**

In the book of Isaiah we read,

“If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

- **God's ways are 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 knows what is best for us (He sees the bigger picture in our life)**
- **God loves us more than any other person ever could. WE CAN THEREFORE TRUST THE LORD IN EVERY AREA OF OUR LIFE**

- **Jesus Himself said,**
“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)
- **God has a unique plan and destiny for our life. It is in following His plan for our life that we are most fulfilled**

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)

- **Intimacy with the Lord is the key to maintaining our peace and joy in life and to being continually strengthened and empowered to be all that God has planned for our life. In His presence in fullness of life**

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)

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

“He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. **(Isaiah 40:29-31)**

“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)**

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

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” **(Acts 4:13)**

- **Our lives will only bear fruit as we remain in an intimate and abiding 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)**

2) **Being continually quick to forgive others (It is a key to having healthy and loving relationships)**

The enemy will always exaggerate the faults of those who are dear in our life. The enemy loves to destroy relationships

- **Having healthy loving relationships is a big part of experiencing the life and life more abundantly that Jesus spoke of**
- **Harbouring unforgiveness in our hearts has the potential to negatively affect the lives of those around us, in particular our children**
- **This is why Jesus emphasised the importance of being quick to forgive others. Jesus Himself said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.” (Mark 11:25-26)**
- **Unforgiveness will impair our ability to love others unconditionally and to seeing the best in others as we carry our biases and hurts from the past into our future relationships**
- **Choosing to continually forgive others frees us to enjoy healthy and loving relationships in our life**

3) Refusing to dwell on our past failures and disappointments in life

- We can never undo the mistakes that we have made in the past, no matter how much time we spend dwelling on them**
- Dwelling on our past hurts and disappointments is a recipe for discouragement and depression**
- Dwelling on our past failures will prevent us from fully embracing the fullness of all that God has planned for our life in the future**
- We must simply choose to refuse to dwell on our past failures and disappointments (especially during those seasons in our life when we are going through challenging times)**
- We must refuse to live with regrets**

- **God has a good plan for our future, full of purpose and meaning**
- **The Apostle Paul made many mistakes in his life before having his conversion experience on the road to Damascus**
- **The Apostle Paul knew that he could not dwell on his past mistakes if he was to fully embrace the destiny that God had planned for his life**
- **This is why 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)**

4) CONTINUALLY BUILDING OUR LIFE ON THE WISDOM AND PROMISES CONTAINED IN THE WORD OF GOD (Being both a hearer and doer of God's Word)

- **Building our lives on the Word of God is a great key to prospering in life and living a life that is full of purpose and meaning. The LORD said to Joshua**

“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. **(Joshua 1:7)**

“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)**

- **Choosing to be both a hearer and doer of the Word of God helps us to continually make right choices in life, especially when we are confronted by temptations and trials in life**
- **Whenever we deviate away from what God says in His Word there are invariably consequences which make our life MORE complicated.**

- **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)

- **AGAIN we cannot change the past but we can build our future on the wisdom and guidance in the Word of God to help us to make good choices in life from today on**

- **God knows what is best for us and His ways are higher than our ways**

- **As we meditate on God’s Word**

i) **Our faith will be built up (faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God)**

ii) **We will know the truth that sets us free,**

iii) **God will warn us of pending danger, and**

iv) **God will speak guidance and correction into our lives**

So that we can make right choices in life and take steps of faith to see the fullness of what God has planned for our life coming to pass

5) We must simply choose to never give up on what God has called us to do in life AND to being committed to finishing our Christian walk strongly – Our faith is the most precious thing that we have in life (As we fulfil God’s plan for our life we will make a great difference in this world for eternity)

- The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” **(1 Corinthians 15:58)**

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” **(2 Timothy 4:7-8)**

- I WILL FINISH WITH THE WORDS OF JESUS

“If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. *If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.*” **(John 12:26)**

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of his Father with His angels, *and then He will reward each according to his works.*” **(Matthew 16:27)**

- God honours and rewards those who live for Him in this life

- God has much in store for those who are prepared to allow Him to direct their steps in life

- The choices that we make in life will greatly determine the degree to which we experience the fullness of what God has planned for our life
- So in conclusion five important choices that we need to continually make to *help us to be all that God has planned for our life* are:
 - 1) Continually putting the Lord first in our life and plans
 - 2) Being continually quick to forgive others
 - 3) Refusing to dwell on our past failures and disappointments in life
 - 4) CONTINUALLY BUILDING OUR LIFE ON THE WISDOM AND PROMISES CONTAINED IN THE WORD OF GOD (Being both a hearer and doer of God's Word), and
 - 5) Simply choosing to never give up on what God has called us to do in life AND to being committed to finishing our Christian walk strongly – Our faith is the most precious thing that we have in life