

Choices, Consequences, and the Power of Change

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7/15/24

I have been struggling a bit with what to write about next. I jotted the above three “C” words down in my notebook one day. Over the course of the next few weeks, God continued to bring these same three words back to me, whether it be a Facebook post I read, or something I was listening to. I knew God was prompting me to write about these three very important words.

Choices, we all make them. Think about all the choices you are faced with in just a 24 hour period of time. From the moment your eyes open in the morning, you make choices; what to wear, how to do your hair, makeup, what to eat for breakfast, what to cook for dinner, which route to take in your car, what to buy at the grocery store, how to spend your free time, how to parent and discipline your children, what job or career you want to pursue, loving your spouse, the words that come out of your mouth, etc. This list could just go on and on. God has given us free will. It is our choice how we want to live our lives. He gives us the ability to choose. We can choose what direction we want to go and what we will do. We love the freedom that comes with free will and the power of choice, yet, we don't always want to own the ramifications that come with it. Not all of our choices come with a positive outcome.

1 Corinthians 10:23 says, *“I have the right to do anything, you say - but not everything is beneficial. I have the right to do anything, but not everything is constructive.”* God gives us free will, but what He desires more than anything is for you to choose Him. He wants you to choose to spend time

with Him each day. Of the hundreds, if not thousands of choices you make each day, is God one of them?

All of the choices that we make come with consequences. Consequence is defined as the effect, result, or outcome of something occurring earlier. Choices result in consequences, both positive and negative. I often equate the word consequence with something negative. However, that is just not true. As parents, we try to guide and direct our children to make good choices, because we want what is best for them. God wants the same for each of us. The reality is, we all will make wrong choices, our children will make wrong choices. Hopefully, we can learn from our mistakes. Mistakes help us to grow and change.

Here are just a few examples God brought to my mind about the choices we may make. You make the choice to tithe on a large inheritance you receive instead of keeping it all for yourself. The positive consequence of being obedient to God is that He has now opened windows of financial blessings you could have never imagined. On the flip side, you choose to keep all your money because there is just no way you can give 1%, let alone 10% to God. You struggle financially, never seeming to be able to get ahead. You prioritize your day by putting God first. You wake up every morning and spend time in your Bible and in prayer. You reap the reward of hearing God's voice speak to you, you receive clear direction, are not stressed and overwhelmed, but are living life by faith. You choose to sleep in each morning, hitting the snooze button on God. Your day is filled with stress. You are running the rat race of life, you are discontent and exhausted.

I love this powerful quote from C.S. Lewis. "Evil comes from the abuse of free will." Are the choices that you are making in your daily life pleasing

to God? Are you reaping positive consequences from the choices you make? If not, there is good news for you. As long as you are still breathing, you still have time to make better choices, time to make a change. God's Word, the Gospel, has the power to change lives. It has the power to change YOU, to transform YOU! Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing, and perfect will." Renewing your mind is a daily task. If you are not opening your Bible each day, your mind is not being renewed. Allow God to transform your mind, open your heart to Him, and choose Him.

I cannot even begin to explain the way God has transformed me, changed me in the last several years. Fully surrendering to His will and plan for my life. Allowing His word to really penetrate my heart. Here's the thing, God has always been there, I just needed to choose Him first. I encourage you to choose Him. Make God a priority in your life today. Begin to reap those positive consequences and allow God to change your life.

Be blessed today!