

MORNING DEVOTIONS

MY CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES

New
Recorded at home
26.7.21
- OK sent to
Jerrick ✓
27.7.

. "In every single thing you do, you are choosing a direction. Your life is a product of choices." That's a quote from Dr Kathleen Hall. Nelson Mandela said something similar - 'May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears'. Each day we are faced with choices - we make thousands of them, big and small, starting from the time we wake up in the morning. . A decision can be about small things like what to wear or big things like where to live and whether to have children. No matter how big or small, everyone has the right to make these decisions for themselves. No one can take this right away from you.

Where are you today in life? Are you where you want to be? Are you happy, sad or indifferent? Where you are is a direct result of the choices you have made up to this point in your life. At the time, some choices might have seemed inconsequential, while others were major life choices. But in the end, all of these choices form together to create the person you are today and the life you live. What is a good choice? Good choices are decisions that keep you heading in the direction in which you want to go. Bad choices, on the other hand, end up being counterproductive and can quickly begin spiraling into stress, confusion, and despair. Over time even our smallest decisions can cause big disruptions if we aren't paying close enough attention. Bad habits such as a poor diet and procrastination become problems. Whatever type of decision we are facing, there is information in the Bible about how to make the right choice. God understands that decisions, both big and small, can be overwhelming. So what can we do ? Here a few tips that might help you, because all choices have consequences.

God gave us the gift of choice.

You may wonder why humans are to make any choices at all. *God gave us each a mind to think with reason in the hopes that we will follow His Will.* Throughout the Bible, though, we see countless examples of God's children not making the right choices. For example, He gave Adam and Eve a choice to eat of all the trees in the Garden of Eden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3: 16-17), and He gave David the choice to kill Saul or to allow him to live (1 Samuel 24: 6-7).

Why didn't God program us to always make choices that matched up to our faith? The reason is because **God honors our free will.** He wanted to give us the opportunity to make the conscious choice to come to Him in our own way. In doing so, we understand the magnitude of how wonderful our faith is. He did not force us to love Him. Rather, He trusted that we would find Him and build a desire to make choices that honor Him. It's not always easy to know what God wants us to do when faced with a difficult decision...but the choice is always ours to make.

Ask Him for direction.

While God gave us free will, that doesn't mean He won't help us make the right choices if we so ask. Proverbs 3:5-6 says "*Place your trust in the Eternal; rely on Him completely; never depend upon your own ideas and inventions. Give Him the credit for everything you accomplish, and He will smooth out and straighten the road that lies ahead.* V7 "*And don't think you can decide on your own what is right and what is wrong.*" God has a grand plan for us, and with His council we

can become our bests. Sit down and pray for God to give you guidance on a specific problem. Keep your ears and eyes open, and He will help guide you to your answer ..

And don't be too hard on yourself - **Everyone makes bad decisions sometimes.**

We often get anxious about the choices we make, because we don't want to mess up our lives down the line. The truth is, though, that we are all going to make mistakes. We are so lucky to have a Lord that will provide us with grace and mercy when we choose the wrong path. Hebrews 4:16 says "*so let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*" God loves us and will forgive us for the mistakes we make, as long as we ask Him. Don't rip yourself apart with fear over making the wrong choice, because God is going to still walk by you either way.

Making the right choice isn't always easy. It can be hard to figure out which way God wants us to go in life, but He has provided us with many different tools to help lighten the burden. Through speaking with God, reading the Bible, and talking with trusted and wise people, you will be able to see a little clearer the way God wants you to move.

- *Credit Megan Bailey*
- *www.beliefnet.com*