

Making Quality Decisions

Have you ever felt like you're just drifting through life, waiting to see what happens next? Many Christians find themselves stuck in what could be called "spiritual neutrality" - a dangerous place where we're neither moving forward nor backward, but simply coasting along without direction or purpose.

The Danger of Living in Neutral

When we live in spiritual neutrality, we become vulnerable to whatever spiritual influence pushes us the hardest. Just like a car in neutral can be easily pushed in any direction, people who haven't made firm decisions about their faith can be swayed by prevailing spiritual atmospheres around them.

Why Neutrality Isn't Safe

The Bible tells us that multitudes are in the "valley of decision" - that place of uncertainty where people haven't chosen which direction their lives will go. This isn't a safe middle ground; it's actually the most dangerous place to be spiritually.

People in neutral are like a sleeping army for Satan's kingdom. When demonic forces align and begin moving in a particular direction, those who haven't made firm decisions about following God will often be swept up in whatever movement is strongest at the moment.

Understanding Spiritual Gears

Think of your spiritual life like the gears in a car:

Reverse

Some people are backsliding - moving away from God after once walking with Him. At least they've made a decision about direction, even if it's the wrong one.

Park

Others are stuck in their traditions and ways of thinking. They can't be moved no matter what happens because they're locked into their beliefs, whether right or wrong.

Drive

These are people moving forward with God at various speeds. They've made the decision to follow Jesus and are actively pursuing His will for their lives.

Neutral

This is the most dangerous position - being undecided, open to whatever influence comes along, and having no firm direction in life.

The Problem with "God's in Control" Thinking

Many Christians use phrases like "whatever God wants to do" or "God's in control" as an excuse to remain passive in their faith. But this kind of thinking actually represents spiritual neutrality.

Why God Gave Us His Word

God didn't give us the Bible just for entertainment or information. He gave it to us so we could take control of our lives according to His will. When God said "choose life" in Deuteronomy, He didn't follow it up by saying "but don't worry, I've already chosen for you."

We have been given dominion and authority over our lives through Christ. This means we're responsible for making decisions and taking action, not just waiting to see what happens.

Fighting the Good Fight of Faith

The apostle Paul described the Christian life as being "hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).

What This Looks Like Practically

- When negative thoughts come, we recognize they're not from God and resist them
- When difficult circumstances arise, we don't give in to despair but keep fighting
- When we feel like quitting, we choose to persevere instead
- When emotions try to control us, we take authority over our feelings

Taking Possession of Your Soul

Jesus taught that "in your patience possess your soul" (Luke 21:19). This means we must fight to take control of our emotions, thoughts, and reactions rather than being controlled by them.

Conquering Internal Giants

Just as the Israelites had to fight literal giants to possess the Promised Land, we must fight spiritual giants that try to keep us from experiencing peace and joy. These giants often come in the form of:

- Negative emotions that seem to come from nowhere
- Thoughts of giving up or quitting
- Feelings of depression or anxiety
- Attitudes of defeat or victimization

Making the Decision to Follow Jesus

Following Christ isn't about having perfect feelings or circumstances. It's about making a firm decision that regardless of how things look or feel, you will obey God's Word and trust His promises.

What Decisive Faith Looks Like

- Choosing joy even when you don't feel happy
- Speaking God's Word even when circumstances contradict it
- Continuing to believe God's promises even when they seem delayed
- Refusing to be moved by temporary setbacks or challenges

Life Application

This week, examine which "gear" you're currently in spiritually. Are you moving forward with God, stuck in neutral, or perhaps even going backward? Make a conscious decision to put your spiritual life in drive and take control of your thoughts, emotions, and responses to life's challenges.

Instead of saying "whatever happens, happens," start declaring what God's Word says about your situation. When negative thoughts or feelings arise, recognize them as attacks from the enemy and respond with Scripture and faith-filled declarations.

Questions for Reflection:

- In what areas of my life am I living in "neutral" rather than taking decisive action?
- How can I better recognize when negative thoughts or emotions are not from God?
- What specific promises from God's Word do I need to stand on this week?
- Where do I need to stop being a victim of circumstances and start taking authority over my situation?

Remember, you have been given dominion and authority through Christ. You don't have to drift through life hoping things work out - you can take control and ensure your story ends the way God intended: in victory, blessing, and abundant life.

Quotes

1. "Things in neutral are easy to push. Neutral makes you vulnerable."
2. "Neutral people are dangerous people because they're a sleeping army for Satan."
3. "A neutral person can be your friend today and your Judas tomorrow."

4. "Christians who declare, 'God is in control' are stuck in neutral."
5. "God gave you the Bible so you could take control of your life."
6. "The Lord said, 'I've set before you life and death, blessing and cursing—choose life.' He didn't say, 'Don't worry, I've already chosen for you.'"
7. "Don't let the spiritual influences of this world affect your mood. You control your mood."
8. "We're not to be led by our feelings. That's living in neutral. That's not being in control of your life."
9. "When God created man, He said, 'Have dominion.' What's that? Absolute authority and control—over what? Over the earth, your world, and your life."
10. "The Word of God has been given to us so we can choose life in every moment—choose victory over defeat."
11. "You don't have to live under a dark cloud. When a dark cloud comes over me, I blow it away."
12. "Everything's going to go the right way because I'm going to keep doing the right thing. No matter how wrong things look, I'll keep doing right."
13. "I choose how I'm going to feel, how I'm going to think, how I'm going to act, and how I'll respond to whatever comes my way in life."
14. "God has given me control—through the name of Jesus, the Word of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit—I'm in absolute, sovereign control of my life."

Verses

1. Ephesians 6:12
2. Joel 3:14
3. Deuteronomy 30:19

4. Joshua 1:8
5. Proverbs 18:21
6. Matthew 12:37
7. 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
8. Luke 21:19
9. 1 Peter 2:24
10. Psalm 37:37
11. Ephesians 4:26
12. Isaiah 61:3

Summary

Many Christians find themselves stuck in spiritual neutrality, drifting without direction and vulnerable to negative influences. This dangerous position leaves believers open to whatever spiritual force pushes hardest, like a car in neutral that can be moved in any direction. God gave us His Word not just for information, but so we could take control of our lives according to His will. The Christian life requires making firm decisions to follow Jesus regardless of feelings or circumstances. Instead of passively waiting to see what happens, believers must actively fight the good fight of faith, taking authority over negative thoughts and emotions. True faith means choosing joy, speaking God's Word, and refusing to be moved by temporary setbacks while possessing your soul through patience and decisive action.