

# THE SHARING CHOICE

Choices that Change Us: Part 8

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Pastor Brian

*“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God...”  
(Matthew 5:3, The Message)*

**REALITY CHOICE:** I ADMIT I'M POWERLESS TO CONTROL MY TENDENCY TO DO THE WRONG THING AND MY LIFE IS UNMANAGEABLE.

*“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4, NKJV)*

**HOPE CHOICE:** EARNESTLY BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS; THAT I MATTER TO HIM, AND THAT HE HAS THE POWER TO HELP ME RECOVER.

*“Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!”  
(Matthew 5:5, GNB)*

**COMMITMENT CHOICE:** CONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE TO COMMIT ALL MY LIFE AND WILL TO CHRIST'S CARE AND CONTROL.

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8, NKJV)*

**HOUSECLEANING CHOICE:** I OPENLY EXAMINE AND CONFESS MY FAULTS TO MYSELF, TO GOD, AND TO SOMEONE I TRUST.

*“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!”  
(Matthew 5:6, GNB)*

**TRANSFORMATION CHOICE:** VOLUNTARILY SUBMIT TO EVERY CHANGE GOD WANTS TO MAKE IN MY LIFE, AND HUMBLY ASK HIM TO REMOVE MY CHARACTER DEFECTS.

*“Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.” (Matthew 5:7, NKJV)*

**RELATIONSHIP CHOICE:** I EVALUATE ALL MY RELATIONSHIPS, OFFER FORGIVENESS TO THOSE WHO HAVE HURT ME, AND MAKE AMENDS FOR HARM I'VE DONE TO OTHERS, EXCEPT WHEN TO DO SO WOULD HARM THEM OR OTHERS.

*“You must grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”  
(2 Peter 3:18, NLT)*

**GROWTH CHOICE:** I RESERVE A DAILY QUIET TIME WITH GOD FOR SELF-EXAMINATION, BIBLE READING, AND PRAYER IN ORDER TO KNOW GOD AND HIS WILL FOR MY LIFE AND TO GAIN THE POWER TO FOLLOW HIS WILL.

*“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”  
(Matthew 5:9, NLT)*

**SHARING CHOICE:** I CHOOSE TO YIELD MYSELF TO GOD TO BE USED TO BRING THE GOOD NEWS TO OTHERS, BY BOTH MY EXAMPLE AND BY MY WORDS.

*"I pray that God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ will be kind to you and will bless you with peace...The Father is a merciful God, who always gives us comfort. He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble."  
(2 Corinthians 1:2–4, CEV)*

## **HOW TO RECYCLE MY RECOVERY**

### **1. I NEED TO OWN UP.**

**TO HELP OTHERS I MUST BE HONEST ABOUT...**

- **MY FEELINGS**  
*"Oh, my dear Corinthian friends! I have told you all my feelings; I love you with all my heart." (2 Corinthians 6:11, The Living Bible)*
- **MY FAULTS**  
*"Each of us must bear some faults and burdens of his own. For none of us is perfect!" (Galatians 6:5, The Living Bible)*
- **MY FAILURES**  
*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst." (1 Timothy 1:15b, NIV)*
- **MY FRUSTRATIONS**  
*"...I want to do the things that are good, but I do not do them. I do not do the good things I want to do, but I do the bad things I do not want to do." (Romans 7:18–19, NCV)*
- **MY FEARS**  
*"I do admit that I have fears that when I come you'll disappoint me and I'll disappoint you, and in frustration with each other everything will fall to pieces..." (2 Corinthians 12:20, The Message)*

### **2. I NEED TO OPEN UP.**

- **I LEARNED TO DEPEND ON GOD.**  
*"I think you ought to know, dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us..." (2 Corinthians 1:8–10, The Living Bible)*

- **I LEARNED TO BE DIRECTED BY GOD.**  
*“The punishment you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. They are more valuable to me than millions in silver and gold!” (Psalm 119:71, The Living Bible)*
- **I LEARNED TO DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS.**  
*“Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up. But it is bad for the person who is alone and falls, because no one is there to help.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, NCV)*

### **3. I NEED TO SHOW UP.**

*“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (Romans 8:28, NLT)*

*“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” (Genesis 50:20, NLT)*

*“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Peter 3:15, NIV)*

#### **LAST THOUGHT**

**Where am I RECYCLING God’s redemption?**