

# “Decisions Determine Destiny”

## Part 16 of ‘Transitions’

Pastor Al Brice | September 30, 2018

We make decisions every day. Most decisions are made based upon our developed knowledge and preferences or past experiences.

With every decision you take, every judgement you make, there is a battle in your mind - a battle between intuition and logic, but a choice is always made whether good or bad. Many times, in making decisions we think about but block out what the potential consequences may be because our personal preferences can override or even reject truth.

Various internet sources estimate that an adult makes about 35,000 remotely conscious decisions each day. [In contrast, a child makes about 3,000] (**Sahakian & Labuzetta, 2013**).

This number may sound absurd, but in fact, we make 226.7 decisions each day on just food alone according to researchers at Cornell University (**Wansink and Sobal, 2007**). As your level of responsibility increases, so does the smorgasbord of choices you are faced with.

You and I have been given by God our Creator a free will, and we make a multitude of choices in life about: what to eat, what to wear, what to purchase, what we believe, what church should I attend, what jobs and career choices we will pursue, how we vote, who to spend our time with, who will be my friends, who we will date and marry, what we say and how we say it, whether or not we would like to have children, should we adopt, etc.

The most important factor, that is left out by Psychology, Philosophy, Science, and Education, is the spiritual part of your life which deals with the most important decisions you will ever make because it determines your eternal destiny.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV:** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**#1.** What motivates our decision making before we are born again? Adults, friends, relationships (good or bad), peer pressure, education and teachers, books, movies, TV and music, etc., etc.

#2. What is a major influence or power behind our decisions that is spiritual?

- a. **Romans 5:12-13 NKJV:** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— <sup>13</sup> (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law...)

\*The moral law of God, Exodus 20:1-17 NKJV:

And God spoke all these words, saying:

<sup>2</sup> “I *am* the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

<sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before Me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the Lord your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates.

<sup>11</sup> For *in* six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that *is* your neighbor’s.”

- b. The consequences of living a life of sin are devastating!!

**Romans 6:23 NKJV:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

c. Living a life of sin means to be a slave to sin and Satan.

**Romans 6:15-16 NKJV:** <sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness?

**Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV:** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup> among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

**#3.** What does our life look like in behavior, our decisions, based upon the power of sin and Satan? The Apostle Paul describes it for us, using his own life as an example:

**Romans 7:14-25 NKJV Strong's:** <sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. <sup>16</sup> If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. <sup>17</sup> But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

**#4.** For a person to change from slavery to sonship, you must make the most important decision of your life; a decision that will determine your eternal destiny.

**Romans 5:6-11 NKJV:** <sup>6</sup> For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**Romans 10:5-13 NKJV:** <sup>5</sup> For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, “The man who does those things shall live by them.” <sup>6</sup> But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*) <sup>7</sup> or, “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): <sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. <sup>13</sup> For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”