

*I*  
*CHOOSE*  
*TO LIVE*  
*WELL*

*GALATIANS 5:16-20*

# Introduction

In life we all have **OPTIONS**. God **HAS** given us **FREE WILL** or the **FREEDOM TO MAKE OUR OWN CHOICES**.

So, along with the freedom **TO CHOOSE** comes the responsibility for **OUR CHOICES**.

If we will **ALLOW HIM**, God will help us make **WISER CHOICES** so that **THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CHOICES** will give us a **BETTER LIFE/ABUNDANT LIFE** in Christ.

The Bible is a book about **people like us** whose **CHOICES** determined their future.

**Doctrines** {Scripture} ~ **Demonstrations** {Story} ~ **Decisions** ~ **Disciplines** {Practices and Principles}

**Example: Abraham and Sarah**

The Bible talks about people and their choices, the Holy Spirit faithfully shares with us the negative consequences of their poor choices as well as the positive consequences of their wise choices.

**1 Corinthians 10:11** says, **These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us,**

## We Need These Resources ~ Choosing Wisely Is Not An Easy Decision

We Are Free To Make Choices ~ But Not Control The Consequences

**Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NLT)**

19 "Today **I have given you the choice** between **life and death**, between **blessings and curses**. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Oh, that you would CHOOSE LIFE, SO THAT you and your descendants might live!** 20 You can make this choice by loving the **LORD** your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him.

**THIS IS THE KEY TO YOUR LIFE...**

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## *Free To Choose Destiny Decisions*

*18 Years Ago ~ I CHOSE to Commit To A Life Of Ministry  
{Walk Away From The Pleasures of The World}*

*10 Years Ago ~ I Chose To Commit to Pastor The Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
{Accept The Responsibility Of Leading God's People}  
Doctrine ~ Demonstration ~ Decision ~ Disciplines*

### *Hebrews 11:24-26 (NLT)*

*24 It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.  
25 HE CHOSE to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was LOOKING AHEAD TO HIS GREAT REWARD.*

### *Principles Involved In The Decision*

- 1. Worldly Pleasures Were Temporary Compared To Great Rewards*
- 2. There Will Be Some Difficulties On The Journey*
- 3. Decision Made By Faith*

## Freedom of Choice ~ Daily Decisions

There is a wrestling match for our Decisions/Choice

There is a Constant Battle ~ Not Just Daily...but every moment

**Romans 7:18-25 (NLT)**

18 And **I KNOW** that **nothing good lives in me**, that is, **in my sinful nature**. **I want to do what is right, BUT I CAN'T**. 19 **I want to do what is good, BUT I DON'T**. **I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway**. 20 **But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it**. 21 **I HAVE DISCOVERED THIS PRINCIPLE OF LIFE—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong**. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 But **there is another power within me that is at war with my mind**. This power makes me **A SLAVE TO THE SIN THAT IS STILL WITHIN ME**.

24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will **FREE ME FROM THIS LIFE** that is dominated by sin and death? 25 Thank God! **The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord**. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature **I AM A SLAVE TO SIN**.

Paul Introduces An Interesting Concept ~ “A Freed Slave”

**Galatians 5:1 (NIV)**

1 It is for freedom **THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE**. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be **BURDENED AGAIN BY A YOKE OF SLAVERY**.

# ***Am I Free or Not???***

*Romans 6:22 (NIV)*

22 But now that *you have been set free from sin* and have *become slaves to God*, the benefit you reap *leads to holiness*, and the result is eternal life.

## ***How Did We Become Free?***

*John 8:34-36 (NKJV)*

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, *whoever commits sin is a slave of sin*.

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

36 Therefore ***IF THE SON MAKES YOU FREE, YOU SHALL BE FREE INDEED.***

*Freedom....*

In Christ, *We have Freedom From Sin... But not Freedom TO SIN*

We are Free from the *Penalty of Sin* {Wage of Sin Is Death}

We are Free from the *Power of Sin* {Devil Can't MAKE you sin}

We are Free from the *Shame of Sin* {There is No Condemnation}

We are not free ***FROM THE PRESENCE OF SIN***

Paul says....*No Good Thing Dwells In Me... In my sinful nature...*

# *As Believers We Must Be Aware Of Our Sin Nature*

*Galatians 5:17 (NIV)*

*17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. **THEY ARE IN CONFLICT WITH EACH OTHER**, so that you do not do what you want.*

## *Our Sin Nature Must Be Dealt With Daily*

*1 Corinthians 9:27 (NASB)*

*27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, **I myself will not be disqualified.***

## *The Damage of Your Decisions*

*Matthew 5:13 (NLT)*

*13 “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? **It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.***

*2 Timothy 2:20-21 (NASB)*

*20 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, **useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.***

***YOUR CREDIBILITY*** Should Cause You To ***BECOME MORE CONCERNED***  
*About Your Choices/Your Decisions*

# God Has Given Us Ammunition For The Battle

**Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)**

16 So I say, **WALK BY THE SPIRIT**, and you **will not GRATIFY** the desires of the **FLESH**.

**SAVED PEOPLE** have the **HOLY SPIRIT** residing in them ~ **A PERSON**...not a feeling

Holy Spirit creates in us a **NEW DESIRE/NEW APPETITE**

Holy Spirit gives us **POWER TO OVERCOME** evil and **DO WHAT IS RIGHT**

**John 14:26 (NIV)**

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, **will teach you all things** and will **remind you of everything** I have said to you.

**John 16:8 (NIV)**

8 When he comes, he will **convict the world of guilt** in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...

**John 16:13 (NASB)**

13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and **He will disclose to you what is to come**.

**Romans 8:26-27 (NASB)**

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.

# **The Proof Of Your Choices**

*Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)*

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;  
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions  
21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

The works of the flesh are **THE FRUIT OF INDWELLING SIN**, and sin originates in the heart not in the flesh.

*2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NLT)*

1 You should know this, Timothy, that *in the last days there will be very difficult times.*

2 For people will *love only themselves and their money*. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. *They will consider nothing sacred.*

3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and *have no self-control*. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 *They will act religious*, but **THEY WILL REJECT THE POWER THAT COULD MAKE THEM GODLY.**

**Stay away from people like that!**

You can say all day that you are a **CHRISTIAN** ~ **THE FRUIT TELLS THE STORY**

**This is a HABITUAL LIFESTYLE ~ A Recognized Pattern of Behavior**

*We are not called to be Judges but Fruit Inspectors*

*How do I know ..... Don't cast pearls among swine... Don't be unequally yoked ~ walk not in counsel of ungodly*



# ***Proof Of Your Choices***

*Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)*

*22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
23 gentleness and self-control.*

*It is one thing to overcome the flesh and not do evil things,  
but quite something else to do good things.*

*Evidence of Our Salvation ~ This Fruit is CHARACTER*

*This is **WHY** God takes us **THROUGH CHALLENGING CIRCUMSTANCES***

*John 15:2, 5 (NKJV)*

*2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and **every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.** 5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit;** for without Me you can do nothing. 8 By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.***

*We Should Be Bearing Fruit.... More Fruit.... Much Fruit*

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*In Conclusion....*

*Monitor Your Choices Daily  
To Live An Abundant Life*