

Choosing Great Rewards

- Immediate vs delayed gratification – our culture has us deeply entrenched in immediate gratification
- Immediate Gratification – seeking pleasure and satisfaction in the present moment, often at the expense of future well-being
- Delayed Gratification – postpone immediate pleasure for the sake of long-term benefits
- What would incentivize you toward delayed gratification? – a clear picture of what the outcome of your choices would be
- Hebrews 11:24–26 – Moses was looking ahead to his great reward.

God’s Help – the Word

- Ephesians 6:3 If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”
- Psalm 119:1–8 Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. 2 Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts...
- Psalm 119:162 I rejoice in your word like one who discovers a great treasure.
- Psalm 119:165 Those who love your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.
- Deuteronomy 28:1–8 (NLT) — 1 “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands ... You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God...
- James 1:25
 - Perfect law sets you free – narrow path that leads to life
 - People equate freedom with no laws – wide path

Hebrews 11 – Incentivized by a clear picture of choice outcomes

- Hebrews 11:10 Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations,...
- Hebrews 11:13-16
 - Believing what God had promised them
 - They saw it from a distance
 - Looking forward to a country they call their own
 - Looking for a heavenly homeland
 - He has prepared a city for them

- Hebrews 11:35 ... They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection.
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.
 - Soul – mind, will, emotions (joint – determines direction)
 - Spirit – birthed by the Holy Spirit – gives life to the soul (marrow – gives life to the bones – joints)
 - Emotions – yielded to being positively impacted by God’s ways
 - Those emotions spilling over so people can experience what you are experiencing
 - Psalm 119:1 Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord

God’s Help – the Holy Spirit

- John 16:13 (NLT) — 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.
 - Clarity – guide you into all truth
 - Revelation – Helping you to see the long-term benefit
- Galatians 5:16–17 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives...
- Psalm 119:9 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.
- Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
- Galatians 6:7–9 ...You will always harvest what you plant.
- Hebrews 11:25

Looking ahead – next week, Lord willing

- 2 Corinthians 5 – “Swallowed up by Life”
 - The simplicity of the Gospel
 - The mandated responsibility
 - The promised future