

Catching His Wind: Choose Life

Living by the power of the Holy Spirit lifts our lives to the place that pleases God.

Love Lifted Me

John 3:16-21 New Living Translation

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. 18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. 19 And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. 20 All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. 21 But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.[b]”

- Ever since Adam and Eve, people have been ashamed to come to God because of their sins. Knowing the difference between right and wrong comes with a conscience and conviction.
- But we don’t have to be afraid, the last words of Jesus were. “It is finished!”
- He’s made a way for us to escape the consequences of the decisions we made to choose sin and evil, over righteousness and good.

Choices, Decisions, Consequences

God has given us all a choice, so we have a decision to make. Every decision has consequences that can be favorable or unfavorable.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 New Living Translation **The Choice of Life or Death**

11 “This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. 12 It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask,

‘Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?’ 13 It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, ‘Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?’ 14 No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it. 15 “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. 16 For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. 17 “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, 18 then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. 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[a] is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

- What are the choices? Life or death. Blessings or curses.
- How do we choose life?
- Deuteronomy 30:20 New Living Translation
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- We have a very important decision to make, and we should be in our right minds when we make it.

Two Choices, Two Natures, Two Minds

- The two choices: Life or Death
- The two natures: Spiritual/ of God and Flesh (Carnal)/ of man/human nature.
- The two minds: Spiritual/ of God and Flesh (Carnal)/ of man/human nature
- Ever since sin entered humanity we are all born with the carnal/fleshly/human nature that is only sinful.

- This is why we must be born again to receive a new nature, and a new spiritual/godly mind.
- Mainly because all the human mind absent of God's influence can choose is the sin, that leads to death.
- Romans 7:18-25 New Living Translation
 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[a] 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[b] 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.

John 3:1-8 New King James Version The New Birth

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

The mind drives interests, which lead to desires, which lead to choices, which lead to consequences.

The human nature/carnal mind only desires worldly things. If we choose to follow it, we are led towards sin and ultimately death.

- Under the influence of the carnal nature = death
- The carnal mind = the mind of the world
- The self is the center of the carnal mind.
- The carnal mind is the tool you use to sin

- When the carnal mind controls your body, it becomes an instrument for sin.

The spiritual mind is interested in spiritual things, influenced by the Holy Spirit, directing you towards what pleases God through faith.

- The spiritual mind = the mind of Christ
- God is the center of the spiritual mind.

***When we think spiritually, we move spiritually. We move towards God
When we are moving, spiritually, we are moving away from worldly things.***

To catch His wind is to live by God's power and remain under His influence.

Going in and out of the carnal and spiritual mind creates instability. Our lives go up and down, back and forth. Breeds instability, and we can even become stuck.

James 1:5-8 New Living Translation

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do

- The presence of life and peace is proof that we're in the spiritual mind

Galatians 5:16-26 New Living Translation

Living by the Spirit's Power

16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. 18 But

when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. 19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. 25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

- No good soldier entangles themselves

How do we change?

- God, I don't want to die, and if that's the only place this mind can take me, give me a new one!

Romans 12:1-2 New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.[b]
2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

- Every human heart must have a king on its throne, and it's not between God and the devil, but rather God and self.
- When we are on the throne of our own hearts, we become slaves of our carnal desires. They scream feed me, feed me, feed me. It's with the lust of the world that its stomach is filled.
- One of the greatest benefits of making Him Lord is that we shall not want.

Psalm 23

New Living Translation

A psalm of David.

1 The Lord is my shepherd;

I have all that I need.

2 He lets me rest in green meadows;

he leads me beside peaceful streams.

3 He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,

bringing honor to his name.

4 Even when I walk

through the darkest valley,[a]

I will not be afraid,

for you are close beside me.

Your rod and your staff

protect and comfort me.

5 You prepare a feast for me

in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil.

My cup overflows with blessings.

6 Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me

all the days of my life,

and I will live in the house of the Lord

forever.