

THIS is what we do...
Choose to Put God First

(by choosing to live for Him every day)

We are the result of our decisions. While we agonize over little things like what to wear and what to eat, are we glossing over the big choices? There might be more on the line than you realize...

14 "So fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord alone. 15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:14-15

DESIRING TO PUT GOD FIRST, I CHOOSE...

1. PURPOSE OVER POPULARITY

- **LIVING FOR THE APPROVAL OF PEOPLE KEEPS YOU FROM THE PURPOSES OF GOD.**

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:24-26

2. SURRENDER OVER CONTROL

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

- **Is it worth my CONCERN?**
- **Is it mine to CONTROL?**
- **Is it for GOD alone?**

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

3. DISCIPLINE OVER REGRET

- **DISCIPLINE IS CHOOSING BETWEEN WHAT YOU WANT NOW AND WHAT YOU WANT MOST.**

I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate...¹⁸ 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... ²⁴Oh, 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. Romans 7:15, 18-19, 24-25 NLT

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

4. IMPORTANT OVER URGENT

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. Luke 10:38-39

But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to [Jesus] and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" Luke 10:40

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. ^c Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:41-42

- **Create artificial DEADLINES**
- **Be ruthlessly selective with your YES**
- **Do FIRST what matters MOST**

TALK IT OVER

- My main purpose is _____.
- My main distraction is _____.
- What are you trying to control? How can you surrender this to God?
- What's the most important thing you've been too distracted to pursue? What do you need to stop doing to pursue it?
- What goals could you set that would require you to rely on God's strength and grace?
- What would you need to do differently now to achieve the thing you want most?