

“THE POWER OF CHOICE”

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We are commanded to “*love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.*” This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: *‘Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.’*”
Matt 22:37-38 TLB

Jesus said, “Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” John 13:35 TLB

The Power of Choice

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.” Deuteronomy 30:15-16 TLB

The Bible is filled with illustrations of decisions with which people were faced and the result of the choices they made.

- Joseph chose to forgive those who had cruelly mistreated him rather than harbor bitterness.
- Samson chose to follow lustful desires rather than God's plan for his life.
- Abraham chose to trust God and demonstrate that trust by being willing to offer his son as a sacrifice.
- Judas chose to betray Christ for financial gain.
- Of the two thieves crucified on either side of Jesus, one chose to mock Him while the other chose to trust Him.

On the other hand, the choices of Samson, Judas, and the mocking thief brought consequences that they did not foresee when they made their decisions. Both Samson and Judas ended their lives by suicide.

- Samson lost the delivering power of God and ended his life as a slave-his eyes were gouged out and he was doing the job of an animal while being mocked by God's enemies.
- The unbearable guilt Judas felt after betraying Christ brought him to the end of a noose where he hanged himself.
- The mocking thief will forever be regretting his decision to reject Christ as he spends eternity in Hell.

God has given each of us the power of choice, but once we have made our choice, we have no power to choose the consequences.

God does give us free will, the power to choose whom we will obey, just as He gave to Adam and Eve.

When we make right choices, it confirms the Scripture:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jer 29:11 TLB

You must say to yourself: This is my **season for favor**, for **greatness**. Everything is working for **my good**. It's leaning in **my direction**. I'm going to stand in Your will, Lord. I'll go and do what You want. I am going to stand on Your promises because I'm **chosen**.

“No one else can ever make your choices for you. Your choices are yours alone. They are as much a part of you as every breath you will take, every moment of your life.”

Your best days are ahead of you!