

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

How to make good choices

Luke 4:1-4 *And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. 3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. 4 and Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, THAT MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.*

The Spirit of the Lord has really been dealing with me concerning choices. I did not realize how many choices are made during the course of the day. Since the choices we make determine the quality of life we live, it is imperative that we know how to make good choices. In the above text, the devil approached Jesus with a choice. He knew that Jesus had not eaten or drank anything, so he offered Him food. Wrapped in the offer was a choice to obey Satan rather than God. A failure to discern the spirit behind an offer will often result in pleasing the flesh. Satan will never offer you anything that has no possibility of producing personal gain for him. He watched Jesus and knew exactly the moment to provide Him with the choice. He treats us no differently today. Jesus is our example and He gave us the blueprint for success against these types of choices in this passage. Jesus showed us how to make good choices.

I have noticed that God often speaks to me in the form of a question. He asked Ezekiel, "Son of man, can these bones live?" He asked Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, Do you love me more than these?" Questioning, is an effective way to understand spiritual matters. When God asks a question he already knows the answer. He wants us to go deeper in our revelation, in order to gain a better understanding of whatever He wants us to know. In order to make good choices here are just a few questions every believer must ask themselves:

1. **Does this choice line up with the word of God?** Any choice that is contrary to what is written in the word is a bad choice. Jesus stayed the course by repeating to Satan what was written.
2. **Is this choice the will of God concerning Me?** God has a will concerning each of His children. His will for you, may differ from His will for me. Although it may not be a bad choice for you to move to another city, it may be disastrous for me. This is why it is so important to have an intimate relationship with God and always be sensitive to His Spirit. God will tell you what His will is concerning you. He does not want you to be kept in the dark.
3. **Is this the right choice for me now in this season of my life?** If I am mother of a small child, is it a good choice for me to be on the road evangelizing to others, while my child is left at home being neglected. You may have the call on your life to evangelize, but is it the season?

4. **What will happen if I make the choice?** In essence Satan approached Jesus with the same choice he approached Adam and Eve with. If Jesus would have made the choice that Adam made we would be eternally cursed. However, Jesus is called the last Adam because He made the right choice and there will never be another need to duplicate this. Jesus knew the consequences of making the right choice.

The correct answers to these questions will help us make good choices. In the next lesson we will examine how to recognize a bad choice. God wants His children to walk in wisdom and live the abundant life. It will begin with the choices we make today. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill