

A Pastor's Heart

Encouragement from Pastor McGill

How to recognize a bad choice

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

There are times in the life of every believer when the choices that are facing us are difficult to discern whether they are right or wrong. These are times that we need to exercise some spiritual discipline before making the choice. In order to recognize a bad choice I am making the assumption that you:

- A. Are born-again
- B. Are filled with the Holy Spirit
- C. Know how to hear from God
- D. Are led by the Spirit of God
- E. Have knowledge of the Word of God

If you are lacking in any of these areas it is going to be very difficult for you to recognize a bad choice. Bad choices originate from the devil and they are nothing more than a solicitation to sin. In my neighborhood almost daily, something is left on my door by people who are soliciting me to choose them for a particular service or product. It would be very foolish for me to accept every solicitor that approached me. My response is simply to discard the invitation. I don't receive everything that is offered to me. I choose what to receive and what to discard. It is the same way in the spirit. Satan sends his messengers to us everyday with an offer. You don't have to receive anything the devil offers you. You don't even have to waste anytime thinking about it. We must recognize bad choices and handle them the same way. Here are some steps that I have taken when faced with making these kinds of choices.

1. Do I have a peace about this? The word of God tells me to be anxious for nothing. God does not want us to have anxiety about no thing in this life. Philippians 4:6. If there is no peace in my spirit about this choice, I know that it is a bad choice for me.
2. Does the choice feel right in my spirit? 2 Corinthians 2:13 Notice the feeling is in my spirit not my mind and certainly not in my flesh. We can never please God in the flesh. Feelings here are always wrong. We are spirit beings, made in the image and likeness of God in our spirits. God is a Spirit and He has feelings. We are spirits and we have feelings in our spirit. These feelings in the spirit are much more reliable than our feelings in the flesh. When my wife and I got married we both did not feel right about it in our spirit. We didn't know at the time, what we were feeling was truth in the inward man. The result of not obeying the choice our spirit was prompting us to make was a marriage filled with pain, disappointment and grief. Please understand that we were destined to be husband and wife and

live the life we are currently living, however it was not the right time for many reasons, one of which neither of us were ready to fulfill the role of husband and wife and we paid a tremendous price for making that choice. The wonderful news about God's mercy is that even in making the choice to get married before we were ready, is that God caused all of those experiences to work together for our good and we have been given the awesome opportunity to help countless couples avoid making the same mistake. (Throwing this in for no charge and so I can sleep tonight) I am married to the most wonderful woman in the world, we have been married for 19 years next month and she is the best wife any man could ask for and I would marry her all over again. AMEN!

3. Can I glorify God after the choice is made? 1 Corinthians 6:20 All of us have been placed here to glorify God. Everything that we do should glorify Him. If it is not possible to glorify God with this choice, then it is a bad choice for me.
4. Am I ashamed of the choice? Genesis 3:8-12 If you feel the need to hide or to cover up the choice, then it is a choice that is not a good one for you. If there is a relationship that you are apprehensive about introducing to those who you love and respect, then this could be a relationship choice that is wrong for you. If you always have to make the person sound better than they really are, then this could be a person that is not good for you. If you are unable to state the truth about the person and allow the truth to stand on its own, then you have an element of shame in your heart about the person. There are many people who are in hiding and have "down low" relationships that they are ashamed of. Come out of bondage and stop that relationship immediately on your own, before God steps in and stops it. It is much better for you to make the right choice now, than for God to expose it. He gives us all the space to repent on our own. Your heavenly Father loves you and only wants the best for you. Recognize these choices for what they are and make good ones today. Make it a great day.

Blessings and Peace

Pastor McGill