

Choices and Voices That Shape Your Life

*"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Now choose life, so that you and your children may live...**"*

Deuteronomy 30:19

I. Introduction

"Beliefs are choices. First, you choose your beliefs. Then your beliefs affect your choices."

Roy T. Bennett

"But until a person can say deeply and honestly, 'I am what I am today because of the choices I made yesterday,' that person cannot say, 'I choose otherwise.'" Stephen R. Covey

"Remember, the choices we make today shape the people we become tomorrow." Victoria Osteen

Decision: (Latin) to "cut off" useless thinking.

II. Critical Choices That Typically Consume A Person's Life

- ✓ Career
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Family
- ✓ Finances
- ✓ Relationships
- ✓ Relocation
- ✓ Self-Destruction
- ✓ Self-Development
- ✓ _____

III. Why is Choosing a Life of Faith Worth It all?

- _____ are established there
- It protects us from _____
- It provides us with _____
- We experience a _____
- It assures us of a blessed _____

IV. Five Key Biblical Thoughts Concerning Choices and Decisions in Life

1. You are born looking like your parents, but you die looking like you're your _____

"...Choose for yourself today whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them. If they say, 'Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; cast lots with us; we will all share 'the loot'—my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves! Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it." **Proverbs 1:8-19**

2. Listening to the wrong _____ will always lead us to the wrong _____

*"With **persuasive words** she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose...till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, never knowing that it will cost him his life. Now then, my sons, **listen to me; pay attention to what I say.**" **Proverbs 7:21-24***

3. We must make the difficult decision to _____ the wrong voices in our lives.

*"Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'" So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?' So he said, 'I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.'" **And God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"** Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." **Genesis 3:4-13 (NKJV)***

"Devil" - баволос - (diabolos) - One who repetitiously strikes until successfully penetrating an object to ruin it, affect it, or take it captive; to slander, accuse, or defame; to penetrate by continuous assault; to ensnare with a net.

*"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ..." **II Corinthians 10:4-5***

4. We must choose to humble ourselves and _____ to the _____ voices

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

*"My sheep will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will flee from him because **they do not recognize his voice.**"* John 10:5 (*Berean Study Bible*)

(A SHEPHERD'S FREQUENT PRACTICE IN BIBLICAL TIMES WAS TO COMBINE A FEW HERDS OF SHEEP TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION AND CONVENIENCE. IN THE MORNING, EACH SHEPHERD WOULD STEP UP AND CALL HIS SHEEP WITH HIS UNIQUE CALL AND VOICE. ONLY HIS SHEEP WOULD COME OUT FROM THE FLOCK WHILE THE OTHERS WOULD STAY PUT!)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil." Proverbs 3:5-7 (NKJV)

How to best hear from the Lord:

- Make a time and space for the Holy Spirit to speak to you
- Be Intentional with your life **AND** prayers
- Give God your best each day
- Nourish your soul on God's Word on a daily basis
- Quiet your mind and set the stage for a great conversation
- You must believe that He will speak to you

Remember, It's not hard to hear God's voice if we want to.

5. We must often _____ for the Lord to be found in the _____ of life *"Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but **the Lord was not in the wind.** After the wind there was an earthquake, but **the Lord was not in the earthquake.** After the earthquake came a fire, but **the Lord was not in the fire.** And after the fire came a still, small voice---a **gentle whisper.**"* I Kings 19:11-12

Volume doesn't always reveal God's voice.

Don't miss the whisper because you're looking for the thunder.

Don't miss the supernatural because you're looking for the spectacular!

ANSWER KEY:

II. Critical Choices That Typically Define A Person's Life

FAITH

III. Why is Choosing a Life of Faith Worth It all?

CORE VALUES

CULTURAL INFECTION

UNCHANGING TRUTHS

SUPERNATURAL PEACE

ETERNAL DESTINATION

IV. Biblical Thoughts Concerning Choices and Decisions In Life

1. decisions
2. voices----places
3. get rid of
4. tune in---right
5. wait---whispers