

Living Life God's Way

Chapter One: Choosing Life Every Day

Spiritual truth to be mastered: Recognizing and rejecting death while practicing the art of choosing life and truth.

Why do we need this truth operating in our lives? Without this skill, our daily perceptions and choices come from our flesh. Therefore, we live defensively in a flesh-protection/exaltation mode and miss Father's heart for our lives.

MONDAY:

I am committed to spending every day with You, Father. I will pray for myself and others as we build my life together on your Holy Word.

Deuteronomy 30:19: "This day I call heaven and 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."

Psalms 119:133: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Proverbs 23:26: "My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways..."

John 3:19: "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."

We have the power to choose life every day.

Are you walking around in your "sleep?" If you're not starting each day with God and continuing in your "right mind" throughout the day, you are asleep. To practice staying "awake," we must do the following:

1. Spend time with God as we start each day to get into our "right mind."
2. Ask God throughout the day to keep us "awake" and dependent on the Holy Spirit.
3. Remember and confess that every day is a gift and an opportunity to "work out" and grow in God's gym called life.

You have been working out all day. The question is, on what have you been working out? How many times did you miss God because you were so into "your stuff" that you never heard him?

Our minds are like a radio antenna; they pick up "signals" from many different sources. We are accountable for the sources on which we focus, not on what the sources are sending.

Why do we let death dwell in us? When we, as integrated beings—body, soul, and spirit—let death dwell in us, it affects all parts of us. This is the root of sickness. When we choose death spiritually, it shows up in our bodies. This is the result of "falling asleep."

What conspiracies do we permit to operate in us and are keeping us "asleep?"

1. *I am content to be saved and going to heaven. Works won't get me any more saved than I already am!*
2. *Jesus loves me and accepts me, faults and all.*
3. *Because of sin and Satan's obvious power on earth, I won't really live in victory until I get to heaven.*
4. *No one else I know is really living in victory either. Those who appear to be are probably in some secret sin. If I knew them better, I'd see it.*

5. *I'm stuck by besetting sin and can't go forward.*
6. *I was once really on fire for God but then _____ happened.*
7. *My life circumstances and lack of spiritual resources (parents, mentors, etc.) left me unable to live the way I want to live.*
8. *My life is fine the way it is. I go to church, read my Bible, and I'm not in any major sin.*
9. *God is in control of my life. You can't change how He made you or make any real plans for your life anyway.*
10. *I would be living much differently if it weren't for _____ (fill in person's name).*
11. *I guess I still enjoy some of my sins too much to give them up. They are friends.*

True life, God's life, is in the eternal "now."

II Corinthians 6:2: "For he says, 'In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.'"

John 2:10: "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

God dwells in the "now." He isn't going somewhere. He isn't on His way. He is here. If you are anywhere but "now," you are missing it. He said, "I am," not "I was" or "I will be." In the Western world, we must slow down enough to be in the "now."

Did you wake up in your "right mind"? I am not "awake" or in my "right mind" unless and until I find the presence and reality of God and His ultimate issues. Your sleep doesn't just affect you! The lost see right through our "Jesus smile" and discern our "asleepness." Deception is truth distorted. We need God for ultimate truth.

Jesus loved us enough to lay down His life. He wasn't stuck in Himself. God help us to get out of "self."

We stand before each other as we stand before God. How can we go through our days and not be before the Lord? What makes us think we can live with any kind of victory apart from this intimate relationship?

How much do you care about being free? Not just for yourself, but for those you love? Isn't God love? What is in us that we don't spend time before Father on their behalf?

What is it about us that wants to choose death? The more time we spend with Him, the more alive we become.

John 10:10: "I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly."

Success before Father is being what He wants us to be and nothing else. What is it that Father is calling you to be? Are you so focused on what you are doing that you've forgotten who you are? Being in the Word is a prerequisite for being awake. You will find your life and being in the Word of God.

Making It Real

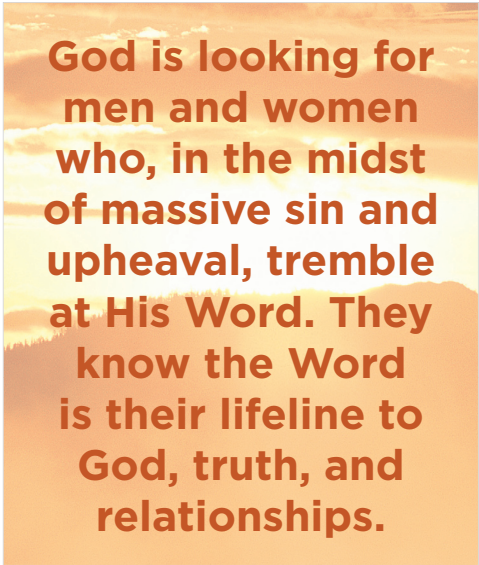
The joy of life is found in consistently choosing life in Christ ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)).

Every day, all day, we live in the constant choice of whether to choose to act in Christ or in the death and sin of our flesh. When you truly see it, the reality of life can be overwhelming. It is then that we see the gracious goodness of our Father. We can appreciate His provision for our lives. His most notable provision is, of course, His Son, Jesus.



While outside of Christ, it is questionable whether man has any real freedom of choice. This is due to the corruption of man's nature. In Christ we are free to choose the quality and productivity of our lives. Our choices will determine our "reward."

1 Corinthians 3:9-15: "For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames."



God is looking for men and women who, in the midst of massive sin and upheaval, tremble at His Word. They know the Word is their lifeline to God, truth, and relationships.

We are always operating under some influence of power. It can be the power of the flesh, the power of Satan, the power of God, the power of unbelief, etc. These powers are not the same in terms of strength or longevity. For instance, gravity is not always the strongest power present in our lives. This is evident when we are on an airplane. The force of the engines overcomes gravity's power to keep us on the ground. We know that a rocket or space ship can all but remove us from the effects of gravity, at least earth's gravity. It is not as though one power goes away; it's rather that there exists a hierarchy of powers. At the top is God's power, and all others fall in order underneath Him. The order is determined by what brings Him the most glory. For instance, when Peter walked on the water, the power of gravity was superseded by the power Jesus used to enable him to walk on the water. Gravity was not dismissed. If it had been, the water would have begun to float up into the air, the moon would have flown off into space, and a whole host of events would have transpired. Apparently since, among other things, the moon is still orbiting the earth, gravity is still a power. Therefore, we can say that Jesus utilized a power that glorified God more than the power of gravity in that situation.

Every morning we must find the power of the Holy Spirit and walk, think, and abide in it. All other powers are subservient to the power of God. We do Him a dishonor to walk by any power other than His. As a matter of fact, walking by any other power is nothing other than a lack of faith at its most fundamental level. "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)).

Questions for Reflection:

1. How will I choose life today? To what pattern can I daily hold myself accountable?
2. How do you hope to respond to everyday disappointments in life?
3. When my eyes first open tomorrow morning, what will I do to ensure that my day will be bathed in the "joy of the Lord?"
4. When I recognize death in a situation, will I be satisfied to criticize it, or will I move offensively to overcome it so that I bring life? How will I do this?
5. My family has patterns of choosing death. How will I attack those patterns in them and in myself without attacking people?

As you reflect on this lesson, pray about it and make notes in your journal. What is the Lord saying, and what are you thinking about today's workout?