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# **SABBATH SERVICES**

**TRUTH ON THE WEB MINISTRIES**

**[OUTREACH OF THE CHURCH OF GOD AT WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS]**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

God's Will, Free Will & Wisdom in Life's Decisions





# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Galatians 6:7** Be not deceived; God is not mocked: **for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** **8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

**FREE WILL**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful**, who **will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able**; but will **with** the temptation also make **a way to escape**, that ye may be **able to bear it**.  
Wherefore, my dearly beloved, **flee from idolatry**.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Genesis 2:19-20** And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought *them* unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that *was* the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Genesis 4:3-5** And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Genesis 4:6-8** And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.** And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Genesis 4:9-13** And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now *art* thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. **And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment *is* greater than I can bear.**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Hebrews 11:7-8** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, **moved with fear**, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. **By faith** Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**1 Kings 18:21** And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.** And the people answered him not a word.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Joshua 24:16-17** And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; For the LORD our God, he *it is* that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Joshua 24:18-19** And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: **therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Joshua 24:20-22** If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. And the people said unto Joshua, **Nay; but we will serve the LORD.** And Joshua said unto the people, Ye *are* witnesses against yourselves that **ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him.** And they said, *We are* witnesses.

# **DECISIONS, DECISIONS!**

## **BAD CHOICES**

**1 Chronicles 21:1-2** And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know *it*.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**1 Chronicles 21:3-4** And Joab answered, The LORD make his people an hundred times so many more as they *be*: but, my lord the king, *are* they not all my lord's servants? why then doth my lord require this thing? why will he be a cause of trespass to Israel?

**Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab.**

Wherefore Joab departed, and went throughout all Israel, and came to Jerusalem.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**1 Chronicles 21:5-6** And Joab gave the sum of the number of the people unto David. And all *they* of Israel were a thousand thousand and an hundred thousand men that drew sword: and Judah was four hundred threescore and ten thousand men that drew sword. But Levi and Benjamin counted he not among them: for the king's word was abominable to Joab.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

1 Chronicles 21:7-8

**And God was displeased with this thing;** therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, **I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing:** but now, I beseech thee, do away **the iniquity of thy servant;** **for I have done very foolishly.**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Jonah 1:1-3** Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. **But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD,** and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them **unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!



"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where—" said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

—so long as I get *somewhere*, Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough."



# Decisions Determine Destiny



**Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

CHOICE

**Romans 6:16-17** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

CHOICE

**Romans 6:18-19** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: **for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live*: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Proverbs 3:1-4 My son, **forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:** For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. **Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:** So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.



# **DECISIONS, DECISIONS!**

**Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Proverbs 1:8-10 My son, **hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:** For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. **My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Begin with prayer**

**Psalms 53:2** God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were *any* that did understand, **that did seek God.**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Begin with prayer

**Psalms 27:4** One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and **to inquire in his temple.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**TURN FROM SIN! (aka REPENT)**

**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, **shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;** then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## TURN FROM SIN! (aka REPENT)

**Ezekiel 14:1-4** Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me, **and sat before me**. And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, **these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be inquired of at all by them?** Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, **Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## TURN FROM SIN! (aka REPENT)

**Ezekiel 14:5-8** That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, **Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.** For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, **which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to inquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself:** And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD.

# **DECISIONS, DECISIONS!**

**TURN FROM SIN! (aka REPENT)**

**Lamentations 3:40-41 Let us  
search and try our ways, and  
turn again to the LORD. Let us  
lift up our heart with *our* hands  
unto God in the heavens.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Be Ready with Submission

**Psalms 143:10** Teach me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

**Psalms 40:8** I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Be Ready with Submission

**Matthew 26:39** And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: **nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Know God wants good for you**

**Jeremiah 29:11-13** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Know God wants good for you**

**Psalms 35:27** Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, **Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.**

**Psalms 149:4** **For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people:** he will beautify the meek with salvation.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Know God wants good for you**

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

**And ...**

**God is good all the time!  
all the time God is good!**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## What Does God's Word Say?

**Psalms 119:105** NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. **2 Timothy**

**3:16-17** All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## What Does God's Word Say?

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## FOLLOW THE SPIRITS LEAD

**John 14:26-27** But **the Comforter**, *which is the Holy Ghost (Spirit)*, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.** Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## FOLLOW THE SPIRITS LEAD

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits whether they are of God:** because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## FOLLOW THE SPIRITS LEAD

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. **Prove all things;** hold fast that which is good.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Obtain Godly Counsel

**Proverbs 11:14** Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is safety*.

**Proverbs 15:22** Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Obtain Godly Counsel

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: **but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.**

**Proverbs 19:20-21** **Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.** *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Beware of **Wolfish Counsel** in Sheepskins

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

**Beware of Wolfish Counsel in Sheepskins**

**Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret *things* belong unto the LORD our God: but those *things* which are revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

**Psalms 25:14** The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Be Careful Of Your Own heart

**Proverbs 14:12** There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Be Careful Of Your Own heart

**Psalms 36:1-3** To the chief Musician, *A Psalm* of David the servant of the LORD. **The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*** For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. The words of his mouth *are* iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, *and* to do good.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

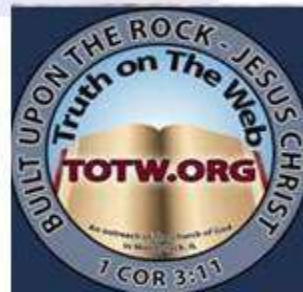
George Muellers Advice 1) get your 'self' out of it, so that you have no will of your own; 2) don't leave the result to feeling or simple impression; 3) let any leading from the Spirit line up with the Word, so you know it is biblical; 4) consider providential circumstances; 5) ask God in prayer to reveal His will; 6) do this two or three times, praying, studying the Word, reflecting, so that you can make a conscious decision.

# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

## Eight Tests For Decision Making

1. Scriptural Test— “Has God already spoken about it in His Word?” (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. Secrecy Test— “Would it bother me if everyone knew this was my choice?” (Proverbs 11:3)
3. Survey Test— “What if everyone followed my example?” (1 Timothy 4:12)
4. Spiritual Test— “Am I being people-pressured or Spirit-led?” (Galatians 1:10)
5. Stumbling Test— “Could this cause another person to stumble?” (Romans 14:21)
6. Serenity Test— “Have I prayed and received peace about this decision?” (Philippians 4:6–7)
7. Sanctification Test— “Will this keep me from growing in the character of Christ?” (2 Corinthians 3:18)
8. Supreme Test— “Does this glorify God?” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

*“Walk as children of light. . . . and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”  
(Ephesians 5:8, 10)*





# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

The intentional arrangement of one's life around the Person and Word of God is the essence of the Christian life. In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle (non-moral decisions), the believer is **free and responsible** to choose his/her own course of action but should always stay close to His Creator!



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Who is On The Throne of Your Life?

**Colossians 3:17** And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

**1 Corinthians 10:31** Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, **or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

1 Kings 8:61

Let your heart therefore be **wholly devoted** to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.



# DECISIONS, DECISIONS!



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THANK YOU!

HAPPY SABBATH!

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EPH 6:17 AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD  
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CHURCH OF GOD AT WOODSTOCK