

YOUR CHOICE AND YOU

Sylvester Onyemalechi

Isa 1:19

*19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land;
NIV*

Ex 35:5

*5 From what you have, take an offering for the LORD. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the LORD an offering of gold, silver and bronze;
NIV*

God created man a free moral agent. We were created free to choose what we want for ourselves. God always respects this free will he gave man in all his interactions with man. He never forces anybody to do anything, or even enter a relationship with him. Rather, he chooses the art of persuasion. Any religion that professes to come from God and is in the act of violently forcing people against their will to believe in it is not a religion from God. God respects your will. He wants anyone going to serve him to do it willingly. He wants it to be by choice, predetermined by the individual. He wants us to always act or take a step after careful thought.

In the above scriptures, we see God speaking of the power of choice. He desires WILLING obedience to his instructions, WILLING giving for the construction of the Ark and tent of worship. The WILL is a faculty of the soul. It is the place of decision or choice. After meditation, interpretation, and evaluation, the decision (Volition) is made on action steps to be taken.

Choice is the power to choose after careful thought. Since choice is an act of your own personal will, it therefore means that you are responsible for your choice (decision). You can't blame anyone for the choices you make. So no one will take responsibility and punishment for the wrong choices you make.

Because God respects man's free will, God will always present the two sides of the coin so that we choose the one we want.

Deut 28:1-2

*28:1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:
NIV*

Deut 28:15

15 However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

NIV

Deut 30:19

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

NIV

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

NIV

The choice is always yours. Every decision you make is your choice. Whatever you decide, God is not to be blamed for the consequences of your action. If you decide for the right things, you get the blessings and life. You decide against God's desire for your life, you get the curses and frustrations of life. He always make things plain and easy to understand, then, He will encourage you in what is the best choice for you; But you do the choosing and deciding. So you can't blame God for what follows your decision. You can't blame any other person close or far away from you either. Everyone that speaks into your life is a counselor, but you are the decision maker. You alone take responsibility for your decisions. Even when your mind is poisoned against another, you will be held responsible for choosing to believe that person. There is no excuse. That is why you must be careful who you listen to, what you listen to, and judge all things by the Spirit of God, so that you can reach the right conclusions leading to right decisions.

Adam tried to escape judgment by shifting the blame to Eve. Eve did the same by shifting it to the serpent. God punished the serpent, Eve and Adam. No one escaped. God told Adam that he was being punished because he chose to listen to his wife rather than take heed to the word of God to him.

Gen 3:17

17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, `You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

NIV

Your marriage always moves in the direction of the choices you make daily. Every decision you make provokes a reaction – positive or negative reactions depends on the choices you make as events unfold daily in your marriage and life. God expects us to be mature enough to always remember that the decisions we make determine the experiences of our life, therefore, we must be careful not to take decisions and act without careful thought about the repercussions of our decisions.

The choice you make about the gossip you received about your spouse will determine the events in your family in the days that follow. What you decide to do with what your family and friends tell you from time to time determine the way you relate with your

spouse and run your family. What you choose to do with the word of God that you read and hear regularly, determines how your love life and home will look like. Daily choices or decisions determine what you say and how you say it. It determines how you live, who your friends will be, what you do with the word of God that you hear and read, how you relate with your spouse, prosperity of your marriage and business, and general well being.

Each person is responsible for the choices he or she makes. If you allow someone else to push or influence you to do something that brings evil repercussions to your life and marriage, you have no one to blame but yourself. Be careful the thoughts you think as things happen in your relationship. What you think determine the choices or decisions you make, and your decisions determine your experience afterwards. Be very careful.

Your marriage is in your hand and not in another. You are the one that determine what happens by the decisions you make daily. Bad decisions ruin love and fill the heart with bitterness. Selfishness leads to wrong choices and decisions which eventually lead to wrong experiences.

16 THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT CHOICES

- 1.** Life is a collection of choices.
 - Every day we make many decisions for one thing or the other. Decisions ranging from what to wear, eat, appointments, what to say or reply to give to a statement made by another, and many others. Each decision determines the course of our daily actions.
- 2.** The choices we make determine the experience of our lives.
- 3.** Choice is the power of decision.
- 4.** Choice is the ability and right to choose.
 - Our choice becomes our experience.
 - Wrong choice will lead to wrong experience.
 - Right choice will bring right experience.
- 5.** Man was created by God a free moral agent – free to make choices.
- 6.** Daily, we make hundreds of choices and decisions, which affect us positively or negatively. We are subject to our decisions.
- 7.** Every decision moves you closer to your dream or far away from it.
- 8.** The choices or decisions you make strengthens your relationship or weakens it.
- 9.** The choices you make bonds you more to your spouse or weaken your love for and trust in your spouse.
- 10.** The choices you make prove your love for your spouse or betray your love for your spouse.
- 11.** The will is the faculty of the soul where choices and decisions are made. And it is influenced and controlled by the human mind. Therefore, as man thinks, that is how he chooses and decides.
 - If your thoughts are wrong, your choice will be wrong.
 - If your perception, interpretation, evaluation is wrong, surely your volition (choice) will be wrong.

- To make the right choices (decisions), you have to think right. Read Proverbs 23:7; 27:19.
- 12.** You are the one who decides the cup with which you are to be blessed.
Prov 13:13
13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.
 NIV

What you do with the word of God determines what happens to you. Your level of obedience determines your level of blessing.

- Your attitude to the word of God determines God's attitude to you.
Deut 11:26-28
26 See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse-- 27 the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; 28 the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.
 NIV

Ps 101:6
6 My eyes will be on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he whose walk is blameless will minister to me.
 NIV

- Your measure of obedience determines your measure of blessings.
 - If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land. (Isa. 1:19)
- 13.** Prosperity is by choice.
2 Cor 8:9
9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.
 NIV

“Might become” Speaks of probability. That shows that it is what a man does with Jesus and his principles that determines whether one will be relocated from poverty to riches. The choice you make about the principles of prosperity like tithing, giving etc. determines your financial prosperity. You may not have decided that you want to be born in a poor home, but you can relocate to riches by choice. Change your experience by applying the principles of God into your life.

- 14.** Peace in the home is a matter of choice – Your daily decisions as events unfold determine it.
- 15.** Every blessing promised can only be received into one's life by choice. What you do with the conditions for the blessing you seek, determines whether you will receive it or not. Every promise of God has a condition attached to it. There is always something God wants man to do. Once you do it, God will do his.

Claiming the promise in fervent prayers alone, without fulfilling the conditions God has given for the blessing to be released, is a waste of time. That is why many are frustrated trying to appropriate the promises of God. Meet the conditions, and the blessings will be yours. It is a matter of choice.

16. Things happen when we follow God's principles.

Eccl 8:5-6

5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure. 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man's misery weighs heavily upon him.

NIV

This scripture reveals that:

- (a)** For every matter there is a proper procedure (principle, law, command, judgment, or decree) for it.
- (b)** For every matter, there is a time for it to change.
- (c)** When you know the procedure, and you are following it, you still need to be patient till the time for change comes.
- (d)** Outside of the decree or law or principle or procedure laid down in the word of God, nothing else will work. It is only a waste of time attempting to solve the problem any other way.
- (e)** Your problem may be weighing heavily on you; God will not be moved until you follow the proper procedure. All matters answer to God ordained laws and principles. Your choice determines what you do with the laws of God.

You are a sum total of the choices you make daily. Your marital experiences are manifestations of the choices you make daily. It is not proper to blame another for the decision you made yourself. Adam and Eve tried it, and God still punished them to prove that he did not accept their excuses. You must realize that you are responsible for all the decisions you make no matter who made the suggestion or the events that led to the decision.

Your financial, health, academic, social and spiritual experiences are all products of your choices. To change your situation, you have to re-evaluate your decisions and change your conclusions for your actions and reactions to change.

To change choices, you must change the way you think. To make right choices, you need to see and think right. Let your thoughts be patterned after the word of God and you will make the right decisions. Fill your mind and heart with God's word so you can think right and conclude right.

You cannot blame anybody for the choices you make. You will stand before God to defend your choices and action. It is better that husband and wife consult before a major decision is made to avoid making the wrong decision or fighting over a wrong decision that was made without consultation. Never the less, final decision making lies on the husband as the head of the home. He will give account to God if any thing goes wrong in the marriage. Wives do not contend with this responsibility that God gave the husbands.

Everybody who speaks into your life are only making suggestions and proposition, you make the decisions. So you can't blame them when things don't turn out the way you want and anticipated it to. You are responsible for the consequences of the choices you make.

What you do with this teaching will determine the course of your life from now on. It is a matter of choice.

Remember this:

- Life is a collection of choices.
- The choices you make determine how things turn out in your life and marriage.
- You are a sum total of the choices you make daily.
- Your marital experiences are manifestations of the choices you make daily.
- It is not proper to blame another for the decision you made yourself.
- Think right to make right decisions.
- Let your analysis be based on the word of God.
- Strive to see all things at all times with the eyes of God (God's perspective), then you will be able to judge and decide rightly.
- Think and decide in line with God's word.