

CONSCIOUS DECISIONS

In order to *Live It*, we must make conscious decisions that are aligned with the Word of God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Our lives are filled with making decisions – bad, good, rational and irrational. Some decisions are emotional, e.g., based on fear or love. We make socially-conscious decisions and we make race-conscious decisions.
- ❖ Experts say we make decisions/choices in three ways:
 - Conscious but conditional: These are influenced by our subconscious mind. Our past experiences, culture, friends, fear and advertising has a part to play in the decisions we make.
 - Fully unconscious: You don't know why you do what you do. These are decisions made out of habit. You do something without thinking of the consequences for yourself or others.
 - Fully aware and conscious. We look at all possible angles, use information available to us, the signals our body is giving us (gut feeling) and we take full responsibility for each decision.
- ❖ As Christians we know that for a decision to be worth anything good, it must line up with the Word of God.
- ❖ The strength of Christ in each of us will be reflected on the outside. Our language, our attitude, our character will and must reflect Christ in us.
- ❖ When the darkness in this world sees the light of Christ in us, our lives must be attractive enough for others in the world to want what we have.
- ❖ One of the ways we know our giftings or strengths (and, conversely, our "non-giftings" – weaknesses/faults) is by others seeing and pointing them out.
- ❖ We must therefore be willing to make conscious decisions to look inside and allow God to change us. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us, but we also need to make a conscious decision to change.
- ❖ The Bible says God beautifies the meek with salvation (Psalm 149:4). If others do not see beauty in me, then something is wrong with my life. If someone has a grievance against me and I know it, I need to take care of that situation (Matthew 5:23-24). If more than one person is saying the same thing about me, I must check myself, my attitude, to make sure the beauty of Christ is seen in me. I must make conscious decisions.
- ❖ Micah 6:8 says, "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" We need to ask ourselves: Do my actions align with the Word of God?
- ❖ Making conscious decisions requires taking our minds out of imprisonment. We limit ourselves when we believe what we want to achieve is just a myth.
- ❖ Negativity, destructive self-talk, excuses, laziness and complaining will keep our minds imprisoned. We must take action! We must train our minds to think positive thoughts about ourselves and others.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Romans 12:1-2; Micah 6:8

- ❖ We must check our thoughts by the standard of Philippians 4:8: "...whatsoever things are true...honest ...just...pure...lovely...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."
- ❖ Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be...transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove...that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"
- ❖ The word "renewing" here comes from the Greek verb which means "to make different, to make new, to renovate." Paul's encouragement toward a renewed mind indicates there is a difference between the "old man" and the new, between a life in the world and a life with Christ. He is clearly stating that there must be a transformation, and that transformation requires a renewing of the mind.
- ❖ Who is responsible for the renewing of the mind? *You are*. If God transformed us by simply renewing our minds, this scripture (and other verses in the Bible) would be irrelevant.
- ❖ We are to renew, to renovate, our minds.
- ❖ It's so easy to entertain toxic thoughts, but with the help of the Holy Spirit we must take our thoughts captive (2 Corinthians 10:5) and not allow them to control us. We must fill our minds with right thoughts, leave no room for negative ones. We must set our minds on things above and not be captivated by earthly things.
- ❖ When those unwanted thoughts come, confess them before God and renounce them in the name of Jesus. Don't wrestle with them; cut them off at the root and invite God's presence into that space.
- ❖ Let us be mindful of what we choose to listen to and what we choose to put in front of our eyes.
- ❖ In order to *live it* (the Christian life), we must make conscious decisions that align with the Word of God.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. How do you go about making sure that your thoughts and action are in alignment with the Word of God? How easy/hard do you find it?
2. When making decisions, what factors (physical/emotional/spiritual/etc.) help/hinder you most?
3. Read the scriptures of the lesson and share others that will help us to make decisions that demonstrate a Christ-led and -honouring life.

PRAYER TIME

Jesus, please help my decisions to truly show that I live my life for You. In Your name, amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Have you ever struggled with making a decision? What ultimately helped you make a choice?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Ministries: Departments, Directors, and participants



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com

Lord of light create in me a reflection of Yourself

So that You can freely work and truly Shine through me, shine through me

Holy Spirit, grant in me the fruit of love Joy, patience, self-control
The life of Christ in me, Christ in me

Let my life be a picture of You, Lord
Let my life be a picture of You

Let me be a letter written by Your hand
For the world to read and to see and to feel
and to know You live, live in me

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES:

Bible Study – 10:15 a.m.

Morning service – 11:00 a.m.)

- Go to www.faithsanctuary.com >click "livestream" link (or type in www.faithsanctuary.com/live)
- Go to www.youtube.com >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Sign in to Facebook >search for "Faith Sanctuary"
- Call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone access

Berean Bible Study: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Facebook and Zoom)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

JANUARY 17, 2021

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Set your mind on things above,
not on things on the earth."
"If any of you lacks wisdom, let
him ask of God, who gives to all
liberally and without reproach,
and it will be given to him."
Colossians 3:2; James 1:5 NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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