

Definitely Deciding!



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Definitely deciding to *accept* and *live* the full Truth God has given through the enlightenment of His Spirit, is the best decision anyone could make. Many *say* they have made a *decision* for Christ—which is a *right decision* to make, but the true Christian life goes way beyond a one-time *verbal* statement of receiving Jesus into our heart—it is to *definitely decide* to *respond* scripturally to every situation we meet.

Jesus said to the people and His disciples—
Mark 8:34 “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.”

Self wants *revenge* against anyone who offends or harms us in some way, but the Spirit of God wants *forgiveness* in response to any *insult* from any *source*. Romans 8:6 “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.” If we want to *please* God, we *have* to forgive any offense with His help.

We must *definitely decide* to always stand for what we *believe* concerning anything confronting us at any given moment—an offensive remark; an unprovoked insult; being shown no respect; or hearing a loved one criticized—that with God's

help we will forgive the offender. All such incidents require us to *decide*—pass it off; or react in anger—it is *one* or the *other*.

The true Christian life is when we *definitely decide* to follow Christ—when we are ready to obey His teaching—that is something we must decide every time and many times. We are to be ready to give up anything for the Lord's sake—*anything*; and definitely giving up anger, resentment, stored-away money; and any other worldly plan and attitude that is *not* pleasing to God.

We must *definitely decide* every day to pray for spiritual enlightenment 2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” Spiritual light from the Spirit of Christ, reminds us to always *decide* to follow the Scriptures with all situations.

2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” Responding scripturally to things is not by our ability or determination, but only because we decided to ask God for His help to do it. 2 Corinthians 4:8 “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.”

When we *decide* to obey God's Word on issues, we *also decide* to *trust* Him for the ability to *meet* them in a scriptural way—*then* the life of Christ is seen by others and reminding them to make the *same* decision to respond rightly to something *they* may be going through. 2 Corinthians 4:11 “For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest [be revealed; be obvious] in our mortal flesh.”

No matter what *type* or *intensity* or *severity* of the trial we are going through, we must always *decide* to meet it by faith in God's promises. The trials and triumphs of Old Testament believers were recorded to encourage us to follow their example. Hebrews 11:32 “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,” etc.

These believers all definitely decided to trust God—no matter *what* they were going through or *what* temptation they faced. By God's grace, they were able to keep their *focus* and *faith* on God to bring them through to victory.

Hebrews 11:38 “(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. 39 And these all, having obtained a good report [received God's approval] through faith, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us [apart from us] should not be made perfect”—[or, would not “receive the prize at the end of the race until we finish the race].”

All these eventually triumphed on earth by entering the Kingdom of Heaven—ushered in by the Messiah Himself—what a glorious day *that* would be! We never *try* to fit in with the world, but we should *try* to be pleasing to God by deciding to obey His Word. We are to be right in the *eyes of the Lord*—not in the *eyes of the world*.

2 Corinthians 7:4 “Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation.” Every decision we *make* is to be made in the power that God supplies—and always according to Scripture. Philippians 3:8 “I also count all things loss for the excellence of the

knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

We are to *definitely decide* to stand for the Truth, and to uphold the divine principles of faith and trust on the Atonement sacrifice of Jesus our Savior. We do this because the devil will do anything, he can to move us away from that stand of faith in God.

Others are watching us and how we live, and this can inspire them to emulate our faith in Christ. When believers go through trials or temptations, they *clap* instead of *cry*; when they experience a loss, they *sing* through the *sorrow*.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.”

Humans can live *weeks* without food, yet cannot survive *days* without water. Our *spirits* need spiritual nourishment as well. We may go several days, months, and even years without companionship—our spirit can survive despite the loneliness or discouragement, but we cannot live without the *hope* of Christ—God’s gift to His children. Philippians 4:13 “I can do [for get through] all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

No matter what we may be going through, we are to *trust* God and *keep* our faith in Christ. The Cross and the resurrection power of God is the *basis* of all victory. Revelation 12:10 “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

Most of us have not suffered to *that* extent, even though many have gone through very *difficult* and *trying* situations around the world. We must always be aware of the consequences resulting from our *definitely deciding* to trust God through faith in Christ. Making that decision will be worth all the temporary *persecution* when compared to the never-ending *paradise* environment of Heaven.

The rewards are not *all* on the *other* side—God promises blessings and good things while we wait on *this* side. Mark 10:30 We shall “Receive an hundredfold now in this time”—and naming everything near and dear to us— “with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

When the apostle Paul was in Athens, he preached on the resurrection of Jesus, but he received a varied *response* from listeners. Some *mocked* him; some *doubted*; while others *believed*. Not much has changed up to this day—when *we* make a choice to trust God in faith, and we totally *reject* the world’s system of self—some will *mock* us; some will *doubt*; and others may *believe*.

Regardless of the *response* to our message of Truth and our life of trust on God, we are responsible only for ourselves and must *definitely decide* that God’s way is the *only way* and *only path* to Heaven. *Not* to choose, is still a *choice*! If we are on the *fence*, we now know that the *devil owns* the fence! We either choose to *love* and *obey* Jesus; or we choose to *love* and *follow* the world—keeping ourselves in slavery to *its* ways, attitudes, and responses.

There is a popular game that involves *investigation* and figuring out who is the guilty person. The players consider the *evidence* presented to see where it leads. At the conclusion, the answer is given—revealing to *whom* the evidence leads.

Now we have seen that the *evidence* of a *Creator* God is overwhelming, so we have to *decide*

and then commit ourselves to where the evidence leads us—*always* to the *Lord Jesus Christ*; who made this statement John 8:58, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

King Agrippa told the apostle Paul Acts 26:28 “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.” There are many *almost’s* in life—we *almost* scored that last shot; we *almost* got the answer right; we *almost* decided to attend an event—but there are no *almost’s* in the next. We will not *almost* make it to Heaven; we cannot *almost* give our life to God. We either *definitely decide* or we do *not*—it is *one* or the *other*. How many, we think, were *almost* saved and now in the lake of fire.

1 Kings 18:21 “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.” Everyone *must* make a decision—to follow the *world* or to follow the *Lord*—it is *one* or the *other*. We cannot be like the people who would *not decide* when the prophet challenged them—1 Kings 18:21 “The people answered him not a word.”

Indecision *is* a decision—they decided *not* to follow the One true God by their silence. We will *definitely decide*, and by the grace of God, may it be to *always* follow our Lord and Savior. *Three times* it is recorded—it is *that* important: Luke 9:23 “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”



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