

## MADE FREE TO STAY FREE TO SET FREE 2.9.18

The call to glorify God will always be with us. It overarches all the purposes that God has designed and empowered or graced us for. We've looked closely at the power of deciding – the process of making a distinction with options that are placed in front of us. God's greatest command we know – 'You shall **love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.' Even though it is a command, Father still leaves it up to us to choose, but He has definitely laid out an informed choice.

**God has shown us they way to live, increase and dwell in our time and space, our land.** *Deuteronomy 30:11-20.* The Word is there, it is fed out – but it is no one else's responsibility but our own to take it in and do something with it. Verse 15 expounded:

- 'see' you approve, you discern, you choose between ...
- 'I set before you today' in your face, I've laid out the options you have this day
- 'life and prosperity' 'life and good', 'death and destruction' 'death and bad'

**Good:** good, well, beautiful, **best**, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, fair (word), fine, glad, grace, joy, kindness, likes best, love, pleasant, precious, **prosperity**, readiness, sweetness, wealth, welfare, well and well-favoured. **Bad** evil, adversity, affliction, calamity, destruction, displeasure, distress, grief, harm, heavy, hurt, ill, ill-favoured, mischief, misery, naughty, noisome, not pleasant or pleasing, sad, sore, sorrowful, trouble, vexation, wickedness, worse, wretched, wrong.

"Now choose life" because it empowers us to love Him, to hear Him, to hold fast to Him; because He is our life and can give us many years and blessing is the result. 'Good' is the effect of obedience – we are hard-wired for this; just need to get the software compatible ☺ We cannot underestimate the power the decisions we make today to serve our family future. We don't serve a kingdom of academia, but our choices need to be consolidated – mind, then heart is established.

**How we are wired** – spirit, soul, body. 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Romans 8:1-8: to be spiritually minded is life and peace. As we are led by the Holy Spirit (able to hear that still small voice) He will always speak in keeping with the Word of God – why it is so critical what you listen too. The body screams at times; the emotions scream at times; intellect and intelligence will not make sense of God's call at times shouting all the reasons why you shouldn't do something; but being led by the Spirit is **life and peace** – Colossians 3:15 – as we allow the peace of God to be the umpire of our decisions. Peace is a barometer – if you sense it ebbing, be kind to yourself and reset. The Holy Spirit leads – He may nudge sometimes but He can never be accused of pushing you into it; no one can say God made me do it.

We've all heard so many times if we hold with the first things (which equate with loving God with everything we have) – prayer, devotion, fellowship and helping others we will keep journeying (prospering) with God; we will keep increasing and we will reflect Him just as He is. As our soul comes into line with the Spirit, as we are transformed daily – minds renewed by reading, meditating on, speaking, praying the Word of God, we are much more likely not to be led by our physical senses and much more likely to follow His lead in all things, stay part of the things He loves, call us too. **God is looking for a people on whose behalf He can show Himself strong. He has brought us to Himself for such a time as this, to such a place as this for His purposes. He has created us in His image to reflect His glory, who He really is – He wants the community to know who He really is and what He really does. This is our call (responsibility) and our cause and now (as in since Christ to the end) the Church is to manifest this wisdom (demonstrate it, reveal it, outwork it).** Those who are yet to believe can't see our spiritual standing, but the rest of our life is on display – someone said, 'you are the only Bible some people will see' 1 John 4:17 says 'As Christ is, in this world so are we.'

We read from Deuteronomy that He intends us to live, increase and dwell long in the land. 3 John 2: "Beloved, I pray above all things that you may prosper (have good success in your journeying) and be in health (true and uncorrupted in doctrine, be safe and sound / whole), even as your soul (mind, life) prospers (is going good)." He desires that we be sound and whole, but the final goal is not the health, the good or the blessing but that through these things people would be drawn to Him as they see the goodness, the kindness of God in us. From our first new creation breath He has ordained certain things for each of us to do but there are somethings that we are all called to do. Paul said to the Corinthian Church 'Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ' 1 Corinthians 11:1. We have His example in the Word of God but 1 John 4:17 speaks loudly: 'As Christ is in this world so are we' He is looking to live His life through us in this

generation, in this community and in this House. We know as believers there are first works that we must attend to, to keep our first love in Christ first. Jesus came out of the desert in the power of the Spirit this passage is fascinating as to what He addressed first.

**Luke 4:18-19: "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."**

These six things are all to do with the heart, the soul of man. This is huge, and it was not only part of Jesus' commission: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12) This is part of our call too, as Christ in our world, in our generation, on this side of the dirt and on this side of heaven.

God is always drawing, wooing people. When the good news about Jesus is preached, the power of God comes up them and they respond in faith, they believe and receive Him in prayer/confession. Romans 10:9-10. John 1:12 – to as many as received Him, as believed on His Name, He gave the power to be children of God. People will never see or enter heaven without Jesus Christ. He is the door. He is the only way, there is no back door to heaven. There are many spiritual paths but only one of them leads to the Lord, God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Titus 3:4-7.

'Born again – this is where the right and good spiritual journey begins because born again people are born again, not of the flesh but of the Spirit. We become a saved one and when we became a saved one we became a sent one, a demonstrator, a model, an example, an illustrator, a page, a book, an imitator, an ambassador, a messenger, a preacher, herald, proclaimer, publisher – and you were wondering about your vocation.

'As the Father has sent Me, so I am sending you.' Anointed (first) to preach the gospel – ordained, appointed because you've been given a live message from an undying God. Until Christ's return, this message will remain because God wants to lift people – life belongs to each one. Acts 1:8 bears this out with the first purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Do we believe the same Spirit rests on us?

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Word study:

- **HE HAS ANOINTED ME AS A MESSENGER** to announce the good news to the poor. We have a message of good – what it really means to prosper, to journey life well
- **HE HAS SENT ME:**
- ... 'to heal the broken-hearted...'  
To heal is to cure, to make whole. Who? The broken-hearted, broken to shivers, shattered, crushed hearts; traumatised from wounds, divided heart from worn tracks, ruts, paths (natural and wrong thinking, habits).

Being born again will deal with the sin issue – everything we ever did; everything ever done to us – we are forgiven, we forgive – we need to live from that place of whole-heartedness and we have a message in Jesus Christ who stitches up any wound without leaving scar tissue; who literally carried away our griefs and our sorrows, the wounds that cut in He has mended. Isaiah 53 is perhaps the most beautiful description of the divine exchange and our spiritual position in Christ. We are saved and sent.

- ... 'to **proclaim** liberty to the captives...'  
To herald (preach, publish, proclaim)  
Liberty - freedom (set apartness from the thing/s that ensnared us – the things that caused the captivity)  
To the captives - taken, like a prisoner of war

Jesus warred for our souls and won. He took captivity captive and led it away. Whatever has ensnared us, isolated us, walled us in, walled us out – the snare is broken; the cause has been carried away in Christ. We have a message of freedom for those who sit in dungeons.

- ... ‘and (proclaim) recovery/restoration of sight to the blind...’

Recovery/restoration is to bring clarity of mind, reverse perceptions, preach, publish and proclaim how people could see/look at things - to teach people to look up; (look down/depressed; look around/oppressed; look up – impressed – live). We have a message of light and truth for those who sit in darkness

- ... ‘to **set** at liberty those who are oppressed...’ again it means to liberate or set people apart from the cause of their oppression through pardon, forgiveness and remitting. Who? The oppressed: the bruised.
- ... ‘to **proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord...**’ This is the time, this is the God appointed season for us as individuals and Church to take this on – because Christ is come and is yet to return. This is our age.

Jesus has stood up in power and stated that He has come to bring freedom to the captive, the blind and the oppressed; the poor. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil; He came for the sick; to bring this waxing weak (Isaiah 42:3) to truth. He loosed the chains of injustice; he loosed the cord of the yoke; this is justice. He came for the poor, the captive, the blind and the oppressed; the broken. The poor is anyone who is in straightened and tight circumstances. He came for the those diminished and taken captive by sin; the fallen and the frightened. Isaiah 42 & 58.

The biggest step ever in life is choosing Christ (made free) – the best journey is also in Him (set free). He has brought you to Himself for such a time and place as this – to continue that which is started to do and to teach. In choosing Christ, we chose life – prosperity, light, sight and freedom. We choose to love God and in that He has been able to lift us, empower us, prosper us, strengthen us, grow us, grace us, favour us, enrich us .... We are made free to stay free. But that was never meant to be the end goal. We are **made free to stay free to set free** because the second commandment is like the first. ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

Who is my neighbour? Who is near? How do I imitate Christ?

**“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18**

God is near. His Word is in our mouth and in our heart. As we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and how else is this done except by firstly our relationship with Him, and as demonstrated to people – then we are increased, enlarged and increasingly bringing glory to Him. First words of Christ coming out of His testing were to declare the reasons He was anointed and sent. Jesus said that in fulfilling the two great commands that we would fulfill everything else. The last words of Paul to the Church in Ephesus were to love by faith and in sincerity, or with an undying love. Intentionally prophetic or not, Revelation 2 speaks also to the Church in Ephesus revealing to them that they had left their first love. They were to repent; change their thinking and do the things they did at first.

Love the Lord your God and love people. Love – keep loving though you may not see results. Love by faith knowing that that you’re are doing the right thing and re-presenting the Lord Himself. Love in sincerity – love those things that God loves, and our hearts won’t stray. He loves? People. He lifts? People.

Do those first things that keep your first love alive. Do those things that keep you on the good journey and bring others with you.