

## **The Power of Choice**

Series: Sustainable Faith: Vision

Deuteronomy 30:15-20\_(1005)

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Point # 9 We will not claim anything we will not practice.

- We will practice what we preach
- We will risk acting on truth in practical terms

Point # 10 We will each individually have to come to a clear decision, determining if we are or are not willing to pursue this assignment from God with abandon.

- I am convinced that this is God's assignment for us
- We will simply keep taking the next steps God reveals

### **I. Clear choices and clear consequences**

#### **a. The freedom to choose has been chosen for us**

John 15:16 NIV <sup>16</sup>*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.*

#### **b. The greatest choice we will ever make sets the course of our life**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 NIV <sup>15</sup>*See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. <sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. <sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup>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 <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

Deuteronomy 30:11, 14 NLT <sup>11</sup>*"This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you to understand, and it is not beyond your reach..." <sup>14</sup>No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it.*

James 4:4 NIV <sup>4</sup>*You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.*

## II. The practical reality of the choices before us

### a. We not only choose the direction, but also the degree of engagement

Joshua 24:14-15 NIV <sup>14</sup>“Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

TM Worship him in total commitment...

Point # 10 We will each individually have to come to a clear decision, determining if we are or are not willing to pursue this assignment from God with abandon.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 NLT <sup>13</sup>But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone’s work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. <sup>14</sup>If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames.

### b. In practical terms, faith choices always require risk

John 7:16-17 NIV <sup>16</sup>Jesus answered, “My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. <sup>17</sup>If anyone chooses to do God’s will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

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### c. Faith becomes real only when it is exercised

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James 2:20 NLT ...Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless?