



JOYCE MEYER  
MINISTRIES®

*the*  
**WISDOM**  
*of* **MAKING**  
RIGHT CHOICES  

---

*Trusting God to Lead You*



## Teaching Notes by Joyce Meyer

Joyce Meyer Ministries  
P.O. Box 655 • Fenton, MO 63026  
(636) 349-0303 • (800) 727-9673  
[joycemeyer.org](http://joycemeyer.org)

TN210

Copyright © 2004, 2010 Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored electronically, sold, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior written consent of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

# THE WISDOM OF MAKING RIGHT CHOICES

## Making Right Choices

Foundation Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 30:19** – I set before you life and death; choose life.

### I. Regret

A. Regret (defined) – To feel sorry, disappointed, or distressed about. To feel sorrow or grief over. To mourn. A sense of loss and longing for someone gone. Distress over a desire unfulfilled or an action performed or not performed.

B. Examples of things people regret:

1. Things said or done that I wish I had not said, or I wish I had not done.
2. Things not said or done: I wish I had told that person how much they meant to me and now it is too late.
3. I wish I had saved some money all these years. Now I regret that I spent everything I had.
4. I regret that I ate so much at dinner.
5. I regret that I never exercised in my life.
6. I regret that I didn't finish school.

7. I wish I had spent more time with my children when they were young. I was too busy making money, and now I don't have any relationship with them.
  8. Etc., etc.
- C. Many people regret their whole life. They look back and it fills their hearts with regret.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF MAKING WRONG CHOICES.

## II. Gehazi Changes His Destiny With A Bad Choice.

### A. II Kings: Chapter 5

B. Gehazi let the love of money change his destiny.

1. **I Timothy 6:10** (KJV) – *For the love of money is the root of all evil . . .*
2. **Mark 10:21** – Jesus told the rich man to give away his possessions, and he would not do it.

**Verse 22** – The man went away sad, depressed, gloomy and grieved, and I am sure he stayed that way.

3. **How many people live miserable lives because they followed money instead of wisdom?**

C. **II Kings 2:1-14** – Elisha made right choices and received a double portion of Elijah's spirit.

1. Gehazi saw the result in Elisha's life of his right choices, and he saw the result of his wrong choice.

D. I am sure he spent many hours thinking about **the man he COULD have been.**

1. Surely every time he saw Elisha, he thought, “I could have had a double portion of your spirit, just as you had a double portion of Elijah’s spirit. Oh, I wish I would have left the money alone.”

### III. The Power Of Choice

#### A. Romans 5:19 – One choice can alter our destiny.

1. I had to choose between my friends and my reputation or going on with God after I was filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Joshua 24:15** (KJV) – . . . *choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

2. I shudder to think how different my life would have been had I not made the right choice.

#### B. If your marriage is in trouble, be sure you make the right choice.

1. Dave had gotten to the point of being very fed up with my attitude and actions.
2. He told me that I had him to the point where he almost could not stand me.
3. Up until that time, I had myself convinced that all of our problems were HIS fault.
4. **I made a decision** – I asked God to change ME!
5. Too many people DECIDE to give up when their marriage is in trouble.
6. Too many people DECIDE that everything is the other person’s fault, and they refuse to look at themselves.
7. Too many people DECIDE that they are not going to change unless the other person changes first.

8. **These are all decisions that alter destinies.**
  9. How different would my life be now if I would have said, “Well, buddy, I can’t stand you either, so let’s call it quits”?
- C. If God is trying to get you to step out and do something that is uncomfortable, be sure you make the right choice.
1. It was very hard for me when God told me to leave my secure job at Life Christian Church and go out alone to the north, south, east and west.
  2. God alone knows how scared I was those first few months.
  3. But I shudder to think how different my life would have been had I not made the right choice.
- D. Decisions have a lot of power – POSITIVE or NEGATIVE power!

WE MUST MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS AND BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DECISIONS WE MAKE.

#### IV. **What Can You Do If You Have Made Wrong Choices In The Past?**

- A. Get out of self-pity and start making right choices now.
- B. Get the chip off your shoulder and start making right choices now.
- C. Take responsibility for your life and stop living in the deception of excuses.
- D. **Deuteronomy 7:1-2** – Stop making excuses for your enemies and utterly destroy them.
- E. Stop blaming others for your quality of life.
  1. **Numbers 21:5** – The Israelites always blamed God and Moses for their problems.

2. **Something in your past may be the reason things are the way they are today, but don't allow them to become an excuse to stay that way.**

EVERY RIGHT CHOICE YOU MAKE CHANGES THE RESULT OF A WRONG CHOICE YOU MADE IN THE PAST.

**V. Choose To Stop Compromising And Serve God With Your Whole Heart.**

A. **I Kings 18:21** – . . . *How long will you halt and limp between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him! But if Baal, then follow him . . .*

B. **Romans 12:2** (KJV) – *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .*

1. Make a decision to be godly and not worldly.

C. We tend to compartmentalize our life, and we have a little religious compartment that we like to keep God in.

1. God will never be satisfied living in one compartment of your life.

**He wants the run of the WHOLE HOUSE.**

D. Prior to 1976, I had a little religious compartment and I tried to keep God in it.

1. The result: I was very frustrated and unhappy, had no peace, struggled with everything and everybody, was discontented no matter what I had, etc.

2. I made a radical decision to serve God fully, and **my decision seriously altered my lifestyle.**

E. **Many people want their LIFE changed, but not their LIFESTYLE!!**

F. Perhaps you came to find out how you could change your circumstance, and God actually wants to change everything in your entire life.

1. That thought frightens most of us.

G. **Matthew 6:24** (KJV) – *No man can serve two masters . . .*

H. **Luke 9:62** (KJV) – *. . . No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*

1. **If you are going to serve God, start looking FORWARD, not BACKWARD.**

2. Stop trying to mix the old life with the new.

Jesus said, “You cannot put new wine into old wineskins.”

**It will cost you a lot to serve God wholeheartedly  
– but it will cost you a lot more if you don’t.**

**There is a price to pay, but the dividends are high!!**



# PERSONAL NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# PERSONAL NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Wisdom Releases Power

Foundation Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 30:19** – I set before you life and death; choose life.

## I. Choosing Wisdom Leads To A Blessed Life.

A. **Proverbs 2:1-8** – God preserves the way of the saints through Wisdom.

1. We must make our ear attentive to it (listen to God when He tells us to do or not to do something).
2. Cry out for Wisdom and seek it, as for silver and gold.

B. **Proverbs 4:8** – *Prize Wisdom highly and exalt her, and she will exalt and promote you; she will bring you to honor when you embrace her.*

1. Perhaps if a person has not been promoted in life, they should check to see if they have been foolish instead of wise.

C. **Proverbs 4:11-12** – Follow Wisdom – . . . *When you walk, your steps shall not be hampered [your path will be clear and open]; and when you run, you shall not stumble.*

1. Many testify to feeling a blockage in their life. They are always prevented and hindered; something is always in their way, and no matter what they try to do, it does not work out.
2. If this is the case, perhaps they have been foolish instead of choosing wisdom.

D. Six things the Lord hates, seven are an abomination to Him.

1. **Proverbs 6:16-19** – He who sows discord among his brethren is an abomination to God.

2. If I know it is an abomination to God for me to sow discord, then it would be very foolish to do it; yet, the church is filled with those who sow discord (strife, gossip, disharmony, tale bearing, faultfinding, backbiting, etc.).
  3. They are not blessed and usually spend their lives feeling sorry for themselves and blaming the devil.
- E. **Proverbs 4:23** – *Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.*
1. Many are depressed, sad, mournful or grieving. They have no life in them. They feel down all the time. Much of the time it is due to having wrong things in their mind and heart.
- F. **Proverbs 8:15-18** – Riches and honor come through wisdom.
- G. **Wisdom is to do what you know is right. It is not just KNOWING what is right, but DOING what is right.**
1. **Wisdom is doing right now what you will be satisfied with later on.**
  2. Wisdom (defined/Vine's) – Understanding, prudence (good management), insight into the true nature of things; **the ability to discern modes of action with a view to their results.**
- H. **Proverbs 19:3** – The foolishness of man perverts his way.
1. It is man's own foolishness that ruins his life.
- I. **Proverbs 14:17** (KJV) – *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly . . .*
1. Multitudes have quick, nasty tempers, which adversely affect their lives. They often spend their lives deceived, believing all their problems are due to some other mysterious cause.

2. We can spend our lives trying to solve our problems and never get free unless we face facts.

DO WHAT GOD SAYS AND BE BLESSED – DO WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE DOING AND BE MISERABLE.

- J. Foolish/foolishness (defined/Vine's) – Without common sense; ordering one's life imprudently, without understanding; inconsiderate habit of mind; describes one who does not govern his lusts; dull, sluggish, or silly.
1. **Proverbs 15:2** – A fool always talks foolishly!
  2. **Ephesians 5:4; 4:30** – They tell us that foolish talk grieves the Holy Spirit.

## II. The Foolishness Of Adultery And Fornication

- A. **Proverbs 6:23-32** – The man who commits adultery destroys his own soul.
1. How many marriages and lives could be saved from destruction if people would just pay attention to this proverb?
- B. This Scripture is a warning, but many today are good at ignoring warnings.
- C. We trust ourselves too much!
1. A wise man or woman takes precautions so the door is not even opened for this temptation.
  2. If you are married, don't spend excessive time alone with a single individual of your own age, and don't be excessively friendly with a single person who might be attracted to you.
  3. If you are a married man, don't carpool with a single woman by yourself.

4. If you are a man in ministry, don't counsel a woman by yourself.
5. Use wisdom:
  - a. If I give a gift to one of the girls in the office, I might sign the card, "Love, Joyce." If I give a gift to one of the men, I always sign the card, "Love, Dave and Joyce."
  - b. When I am picked up prior to the meetings, a member of my family is always present.
  - c. We do not allow male and female employees that are married to others to go places together in a car on business.

Example: If a man from the computer department and a woman from the same department both had to go to the same school in the afternoon, they would go in separate cars – unless they are single, married, engaged, or dating each other.

- d. Be careful what you say. I remember one of my husband's friends saying to me, "I wish my wife looked like you do, Joyce." I could feel a wrong spirit on the man and I got away from him as quickly as I could. I told my husband what he had said. We prayed for him and agreed that if he ever did it again, Dave would confront him.

D. You cannot play with fire and not get burned!

### **III. Ignored Warnings**

- A. Do you have the "Titanic Syndrome"?
  1. A ship that was reported to be unsinkable ignored the warning of icebergs ahead and the unsinkable ship sank, claiming 1,507 lives.

2. Pride always ignores warnings.
- B. People ignore warnings because they think they will not be the one to get caught.
1. Warnings on cigarette packages: “This product may cause cancer.” But the smoker thinks that even though others may get cancer, he won’t. He gambles with his life.
  2. The warning is all over the place, “Do not drink and drive.” Yet drunk drivers kill thousands each year. They never thought they would kill anyone – someone else might, but not them.
- C. I had minor, semi-constant back pain for a year and ignored it. I knew inside I should do something – start exercising, stop jumping up and down in high heels on the platform when I got excited in meetings, go to the chiropractor or something. But I ignored the warning and did nothing.
1. My back finally got so bad that I had almost constant pain for one year and three months before I finally got it back in shape through exercise, therapy, and adjustments.
- D. A woman prophesied to me years ago about wearing high heels, and I laughed at it and kept doing what I wanted to. A few months later, my feet started hurting, and I discovered I had developed bunions from wearing high heels.
1. I had them too high and wore them too much.
- E. Various pains in the body are trying to tell us that something is wrong. A constant nagging headache may be your body saying, “I am stressed out – I need some rest.”
- F. Clothes getting too tight in the waist is a warning that you are gaining weight.
- G. We have had employees that received warnings about excessive tardiness, personal phone calls, or a bad attitude. They ignored the warnings and were fired.

1. One young man went back to his department after being warned and stated, “They won’t fire me; they need me too much!” A few weeks later, he was fired.
- H. A warning states what will happen if one takes certain actions. If you do this, the result will be this.
1. **Deuteronomy: Chapter 28** – “The blessing and the curse” – an entire chapter that is a warning.
  2. **Deuteronomy: Chapter 8** warns the people that if they forget God after they are blessed, they will lose their blessings.
- The way to keep your blessings is to keep doing whatever you did to get them.**
3. The Bible is filled with warnings, yet much of the world ignores them.
- I. Paul warns the people against pride.
1. **Romans: Chapter 12** – I warn you not to think more highly of yourself than you ought to, having an exaggerated opinion of your own importance; but rate your ability with sober judgment according to the grace of God given you.
- J. Other warnings we see in the Word of God:
1. **Hebrews 8:5** – God warned Moses and he listened; otherwise, he might not be in the Bible today.
  2. **I Thessalonians 5:14** – Warn those who are out of line – the loafers, the disorderly and the unruly.
  3. **II Timothy 4:2-3** – Preachers are to warn people as part of their job.
  4. People today do not like to be warned!



#### IV. How Many Warnings Are You Ignoring?

- A. Are you noticing constant money pressure?
1. You may be spending too much money.
  2. Perhaps you are not working enough.
  3. It could be other things that you cannot help, but do not be afraid to look at all the possibilities.
  4. Perhaps you have money pressure, and you have teenagers who could be working and taking care of some of their own expenses.
  5. Perhaps you have gone into debt to send your child to the school all their friends were going to, and it was not a wise decision for you.
  6. Perhaps you just are not managing your money well – waiting too long to balance your checkbook, and now math errors are causing you trouble.

THE WARNING MEANS YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING.  
MAKE SOME KIND OF CHANGE OR IT WILL GET WORSE.

- B. Changes in your mate's attitude toward you could be a warning.
1. Perhaps it is a warning that things are a little stale.
  2. You may be doing something that severely irritates them. They may be telling you, and you are not listening.
  3. Are you nagging too much?
  4. I remember once when Dave said to me, "All you do is hang on that phone every night with your friends." I got the message and got off the phone.

5. Perhaps you need to clean up a little, fix your hair, be a little more pleasant, give some compliments, get a babysitter and go on a date, turn the television off and talk, etc.

### DON'T IGNORE THE WARNING – DO SOMETHING!

- C. Are your children withdrawing from you?
  1. Perhaps you are not making an effort to understand them and their needs.
  2. Perhaps you are not spending enough quality time with them.
    - a. My daughter Laura told Sandy that she had gotten to the point that she did not feel close to me because all we did was work together. She was on the road with me, but others were always around. She said sometimes she felt closer to her mother-in-law than to me.
    - b. **I took immediate action to change the situation! I did not ignore the warning.**

## V. Are You Ignoring The Call Of God?

- A. **Matthew 22:5** – They ignored the call of God and went their own way.
- B. **Jonah: Chapters 1-3** (selected portions)
  1. God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish.
  2. His circumstances got very bad.
  3. God did not change His mind.
- C. When we ignore God, we can only have trouble.

- D. It is foolishness. We will not have the rewards of wisdom while being foolish.

## VI. The Beginning Of Wisdom Is The Reverential Fear And Awe Of God.

- A. **Proverbs 1:7** – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom.

1. Without the fear of God, people will go their own way. They will think they can get by with it – they have not yet learned that GOD MEANS WHAT HE SAYS.

- B. **Deuteronomy 10:12** (KJV) – *And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul . . .*

1. Notice that the fear of the Lord is listed before obedience.

- C. The proper fear of the Lord provokes us to:

1. Obedience.
2. Carefulness in dealing with other people (God's children), including the avoidance of gossip and faultfinding.

- D. **Psalms 31:19** (KJV) – *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee . . .*

CHOOSE WISDOM INSTEAD OF FOOLISHNESS  
AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED!







# Make Your Own Decisions

Foundation Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 30:19** – I set before you life and death; choose life.

## I. Don't Allow Others To Make Your Decisions For You.

A. You are being very unwise (foolish) if you are allowing others to make your choices.

1. The Bible says there is safety in many counselors. It is a good thing to consider what others say, but the final choice must be yours.

One must be true to his own heart; otherwise, there can be no real happiness.

2. Control and manipulation minister death to your spirit, your mind, your emotions, and every part of your life.

a. I set before you life and death, **choose life**.

b. If we are going to choose life, then we must also choose to confront those people in our life who try to control us.

c. Most strong personalities will respect you if you have borders in your life – areas you let them into and areas you do not let them into.

d. I have a strong personality, and Dave is very easygoing. He lets me have my way about a lot of things because it just does not matter to him. But when it comes to something that is important, he puts his foot down – and I respect that. DAVE IS EASYGOING, BUT HE HAS BORDERS.

- e. My older son has a strong personality, and his wife is very easygoing. She was recently talking about children and said, “Even though David only wanted two children, if one of our two children would not have been a girl, I would have had a third child.” She looked at David, smiled, and said, “David gets his way about most things because a lot of things just don’t matter to me. But if I feel it is really important, I get my way.”  
SHELLY IS EASYGOING, BUT SHE HAS BORDERS.
  
- f. My younger daughter Sandra is married to a very easygoing man. She has very definite opinions about a lot of things and usually gets her way because Steve is just not very opinionated. But when he does feel strongly about something, he does not give in. STEVE IS EASYGOING, BUT HE HAS BORDERS.
  
- g. In almost every relationship, one of the two people (friends or marriage partners) will have a stronger personality than the other. This is God-ordained, and it is a good thing. But if the stronger-willed person tries to control and manipulate, or if the more easygoing person allows control, it is wrong.

B. **Colossians 3:22** – Serve God in singleness of heart, not as men pleasers.

C. Being overly concerned about what people think of you will lead to being a man pleaser.

1. **John 12:43** (KJV) – *For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*

2. **I Corinthians 4:3** – Paul was free from other people’s opinions of him.

D. Those who crave popularity will be controlled by others.



1. **Acts 12:1-3** – Herod was not following his heart; he was following what pleased the people. When government officials do this, they are headed for disaster and they are taking the country with them.
2. Saul lost the kingdom due to trying to please the people instead of God.

**I Samuel 13:8-12** – He forced himself to do what his heart did not approve of because he wanted to keep the people liking him.

3. **Galatians 1:10** – Paul said he was not trying to be popular.

ARE YOU TRYING TO BE POPULAR?

## II. We Cannot Be Controlled By God And Man.

- A. **I Corinthians 9:19** – Paul said he was free from all men.
  1. He was also a servant. Being free does not mean that we never do things others want us to do – **it means we don't allow them to control us.**
- B. **Acts 5:29** – We must obey God rather than man.
  1. This decision was made with the knowledge that they could be jailed or tortured for their choice.
  2. **Every decision is not an easy one!**
- C. **Galatians 6:1** – The spiritual person is controlled by the Holy Spirit.
- D. **Romans 8:14** – Being led by the Spirit is a mark of maturity.
  1. Allowing others to control you is spiritual immaturity.
  2. The fear of man is spiritual immaturity.

3. Insecurity is spiritual immaturity.
  - a. **Hebrews 5:13** – Everyone who continues to feed on milk is unskilled in the doctrine of righteousness.
  - b. We cannot give meat (truth) to the insecure. We must always be very careful not to hurt them, not to shake them, not to keep them fixed, or not to tell them what they want to hear.

All of this is because **they don't know who they are in Christ.**

- c. They should be looking at Christ – instead, they are looking at themselves. They are looking at everything they are not. They are looking at others and comparing themselves with them.

**They are looking at everything except what they should be looking at.**

- d. We often allow insecure people to control us. We don't want to hurt them or upset them.

**This is wrong, and does not help the insecure individual.**

- E. **Luke 4:1-2** – Jesus, being controlled by the Spirit of God, was led into the wilderness for forty days.

1. If we are led by the Spirit of God, we will not always be led to do the most comfortable thing for us.
2. Confrontation may not be comfortable, but it is vital to healthy relationships.

### III. Natural Control Verses Demonic Control

- A. When we are in authority, we are responsible to control certain things.

1. Parents should have control over their young children – not a demonic control, but a loving control.
  - a. **I Timothy 3:4-5** – Leaders should manage their own children well before they try to manage the church.
  - b. A parent should also begin releasing decision making to their children as they get older, and be prepared to release them when they are of age.
  
- B. A leader is responsible to control a service as they are led by the Holy Spirit. If I allow people to do anything they want to do, we will have chaos.
  1. I don't allow people I do not know to lay hands on conference guests.
  2. I don't allow people to get up and testify if I do not know what they are going to say.
  3. I don't allow people to come up in front of the altar and dance. It may be acceptable in your home church, but many in my conferences would not understand it and would be tempted to watch the dancers instead of worshiping God.
 

We do allow it in the back of the room or in another inconspicuous place.
  4. We don't allow people to play tambourines in the congregation. It is distracting to people sitting next to them – especially the ones who really don't know how to play a tambourine.
  5. We don't allow people to bring video cameras and film the service.
  6. There are many things I don't allow. I am not trying to control the people –

I am trying to produce an atmosphere that God can work in and that everyone can feel comfortable in.  
**This is my responsibility.**

7. **If I allow others to do what they want, I am not going to be in leadership for long.**

C. A man might have to control his wife's spending if she is out of balance and he cannot pay the bills.

D. Demonic control examples:

1. A man dominates his wife – he gives her no money; allows her no friends; she cannot go to church; she cannot have Christian books; he tells her what to wear, etc.
2. A person controlled by demons can become so selfish that they absolutely never consider anyone else's feelings, desires, or opinions.
3. A parent dominating a grown child – they are jealous of all their friends; expect to be included in everything; still want to make their decisions for them, get angry if they buy a house or a car without permission, etc.
4. A boss demanding so much of an employee that it is ruining their home life, spiritual life, and their health
5. A pastor or other spiritual leader demanding so much of his or her staff that employees are being forced to break God's priority order to keep the leader happy.

E. Example: The worship leader should sing a song if I ask him to. No matter what he has planned for the worship, if I ask him to change it and sing all songs about the blood of Jesus – he should do it.

But, if I am requiring him to be at so many meetings and have so many music practices that he is getting no rest, no time with his family,

no time to take care of things at home, etc. then it is a wrong control and he should confront me. He should do it respectfully, but he should do it.

F. Submit to authority, but do not be controlled!

1. **Romans 13:1-5**

2. **I Peter 2:13-18**

3. Don't submit to sin, but you will be required to submit to things you do not like or agree with – not only submit, but with a good attitude.

#### IV. Who Can Control Whom?

A. The controller will be:

1. Someone you love and respect (or you did at one time).
2. Someone you need (and they know it).
3. Someone who has been hurt and decided "I'll never get hurt again." They try to maintain control over everything as a means of protecting themselves.

I was like this.

4. Someone who was controlled, and they were trained to be controllers.
5. A proud, selfish, jealous, or just plain lazy person (wanting everyone else to serve them).
6. An insecure person who feels better about themselves when they are in control.

B. The person(s) controlled will be:

1. Someone who has always been controlled – it is a habit and a way of life.
  2. Insecure, fearful, and timid people who have never practiced confronting anything in life.
  3. Weak people.
  4. Peace lovers who don't like confrontation.
  5. Those confused over submission to authority.
  6. Those with a poor self-image, who think so little of their ability that they assume everyone else is right and they are always wrong.
  7. Someone who is dependent on others for care, finances, a place to live, employment, etc.
  8. Someone who has done wrong at one time and now feels they owe the controller a debt.
- C. People are often controlled by someone they are indebted to – for example:
1. I got you out of debt; now you owe me.
  2. I gave you a car; now you owe me.
  3. I have made you the inheritor in my will; now you owe me.

## **V. Characteristics Of Control**

- A. Emotional manipulation (the most powerful avenue)
1. Tears, rage, and silence (especially silence as a form of rejection)

2. Example: Both sets of parents want the newlyweds to spend the holidays with them.
  - a. If silence does not work, tears or anger is tried. The parent who paid for the wedding might bring up all the money they gave the couple.
  - b. A parent who is being led by the Holy Spirit will give the couple the freedom to decide, and they will pray for God to help them.
3. I tried emotional manipulation for years. Every time Dave did not do what I wanted him to do, I got angry, silent, cried, pouted, and cleaned house – hoping he would feel sorry for me.

B. Spiritual manipulation

1. Guiding people through false dreams, visions, prophecies, or supposed words from the Lord. Also preaching, and even praying, which is slanted toward control.
  - a. I have many “words from God” and “dreams about me” sent to me. Some are good, but most are out in left field.
  - b. Sometimes the person is very sincere, but the enemy may be using them unknowingly. Recently, I got a warning about taking a certain opportunity that was going to be offered to me. I had not received the offer yet, but three months later I did. When the offer came, we felt in our spirits to take it. It was a tremendous open door to preach the Gospel in places by television where Christian programming had never been allowed. I remembered the letter and asked my secretary to get it out. I read it and noticed that some things seemed right, but others were wrong. The letter said this offer would come in one month, and it had been three – also, other details were not accurate. As I waited on God (not wanting to ignore a warning if He was truly giving me one), the thing that came up in my spirit was this:

If God was trying to warn me of some danger, He would do so through someone I know and would be able to respect – not someone I had never heard of or seen.

- c. I believe Satan used this to try to close this door of opportunity.
- d. I cannot pay attention to everything everyone writes to me – it could be someone in witchcraft, being used by Satan at his will.
- e. Another example: One year we received a letter in January that said, “While in prayer, God showed me that several key people are going to be leaving, but not to be concerned. He is cleaning house. It will all work out for the best and will be over by the end of the month.” This was already happening, and the letter was a great encouragement to us.

- 2. Leaders must be careful about telling people what to do.
- 3. Don’t preface everything with “God said” – people believe you!
- 4. Mr. Vision and Mrs. Intercession in the congregation can try to control the pastor.
- 5. Big givers may try to control the pastor or head of the ministry.

#### C. Words

- 1. Some will try to control you with words of failure, defeat, unnatural obligation, guilt, criticism, and intimidation.

#### D. Threats

- 1. **Acts 4:13-20** – Peter and John refused to be controlled by threats.



## VI. Are You Being Controlled?

- A. You are in a room with others having fun, being yourself. The controller walks in and you get tense and quiet, and feel guilty that you are enjoying yourself.
- B. You cannot make new friends without the controller being jealous and possessive.
- C. You feel you always have to “check in” with the person – no personal life of your own.
- D. You have to call them, have to invite them, have to remember gifts on holidays, and have to go where they want you to go.
- E. How to get free from control.
  - 1. Recognize you are being controlled.
  - 2. Choose to break the habit.
  - 3. Learn **how** the person controls you:  
  
Fear, anger, silence, rage, tears, money,  
intimidation, guilt, etc.
  - 4. Make some decisions, write them down,  
and be determined to be free.
  - 5. Face the battle of confrontation.

DO IT AFRAID IF YOU HAVE TO – BUT DO IT.

## VII. Are You Controlling Someone Else?

- A. Let people be free to make their own decisions.
  - 1. If you don't agree with their decision, refrain from showing displeasure.

2. You might say, “I respect your right to choose.”
- B. Don’t insist that everything be done your way.
    1. **Romans 12:16** – Learn to adapt and adjust yourself to people and things.
  - C. Don’t make plans for other people without checking to see if they want to go.
  - D. Don’t be an overprotective parent. Let your children make some mistakes – they will learn a lot by them.
  - E. Don’t get angry when others don’t do what you want.
  - F. Learn to let people confront you.
    1. Don’t give people the silent treatment if they confront you.
    2. Don’t reject them.
  - G. **We must ask ourselves how we respond when we don’t get our way. An honest answer can give us a good idea of where we stand concerning the issue of control.**
  - H. **If you have had a problem with control in the past, CHOOSE TO GIVE IT UP. Purpose to give others their God-given right to free choice.**

### VIII. Controlling Prayers

- A. Pray God’s will over people’s lives, not your own.
- B. Soulsh prayers are a mild form of witchcraft.
- C. Example: A young lady should not spot a man she thinks she loves and begin to pray that he will fall in love with her. She can pray, “God, if it is Your will for us to marry, I pray that You will put me in his heart and give me favor. Place love in his heart for me if he is the right one for me.”

- D. Words are weapons in the realm of the Spirit. When witches try to put curses on people, it is done with words.
1. **Isaiah 54:17** – No weapon formed against me shall prosper, but every tongue that rises up against me in judgment I shall show to be in the wrong.
- E. Example: It would be wrong for me to pray for my children to do what I would like to see them do. I might pray that they would all preach. I am careful to pray for them to answer the call God places on their lives and to do all He desires for them to do.
- F. Example: It came into my heart one day to pray for a certain couple to give some money into our ministry. I knew I had to be careful just in case it was my heart and not the heart of God. So I prayed like this, “God, I feel You want me to pray for (Name) to give some sizeable money into our ministry. If that is Your will, Lord, then I do pray for it, and I get into agreement with You that it will come to pass. If I am wrong, then forget it!”
1. A couple of weeks later, a check came from that couple.
- G. Example: You can pray for a raise, but pray according to God’s will, not your own.
- H. There are many things the Bible does give us on God’s specific will. It is always best concerning those things to pray: **“If it be Thy will!”**

CHOOSE TO BE FREE AND  
ALLOW OTHERS THEIR FREEDOM!







# Choose Boldness Instead Of Fear

Foundation Scripture:

**Deuteronomy 30:19** – I set before you life and death; choose life.

## I. **You Have Not Passed This Way Before (You Have Never Done This Before).**

A. **Joshua 3:4** – . . . *you have not passed this way before.*

1. We have a strong tendency to fear new things.

B. **Joshua 3:2-7** – Follow the ark, and you will make it to your destination.

1. The ark carried the Anointing (the presence of God) and His Law (His will).

**I John 2:20, 27** – The Anointing will teach you all things.

2. Now we carry all of these in our heart. God's Spirit is in us, and He will lead and guide us.

C. God promises to lead His children.

1. **Isaiah 30:21** (KJV) – *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

2. **Isaiah 45:2** (KJV) – *I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight . . .*

D. **Everything you are doing now was once something you had never done!**

E. Who is in the “driver’s seat”?

1. **II Samuel 6:3-8** – They put the ark in a new cart and began to drive it around.

**They were supposed to follow the ark, but they tried to reverse God's order.**

Any time we try to reverse God's order, we meet with disaster. Example: When a woman tries to be her husband's authority, it always ends in trouble of some kind. If a parent allows a child to be the boss, it always ends in disaster.

- F. **Numbers 9:15-23** – Learn to follow the cloud.

1. Don't be afraid to go where you have never been – just follow the cloud.

## II. Choose Boldness.

- A. **Joshua 1:5-7** – God was giving Joshua a chance for advancement. The only thing he needed to do was **to be bold**.

1. Being the top leader was new for Joshua; he had always had Moses to lean on before. Moses told Joshua what to do, and he did it.

- B. **If boldness were not a choice, God would not have needed to tell Joshua to be bold.**

- C. **Deuteronomy 31:6** (KJV) – *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

- D. **Joshua 23:6** – *So be very courageous and steadfast to keep and do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning not aside from it to the right hand or the left.*

1. Boldness is required for anyone who is going to keep God's Word. As we learn His Word, we find many things we need to let go of and many others we need to take hold of.



It is difficult to do either one. We are often afraid to leave what we are familiar with; likewise, we are afraid to go where we have never been and do what we have never done.

E. **Jeremiah 1:4-8** – God called Jeremiah. He responded in fear, and God told him not to be afraid.

1. Fear is not a feeling. It produces feelings, but a solid decision forbids the feelings to rule us.
2. **Jeremiah 1:17** – If you break down at the sight of their faces, I will permit you to be overcome.

God will help us if we will trust Him. But if we choose fear, He will permit us to be defeated.

F. **II Timothy 1:7** – Timothy was afraid.

1. He was afraid to testify.
2. He was afraid to let anyone know that he knew Paul. Paul was being persecuted, and people were afraid to be associated with him.
3. He was afraid of the suffering he would have to endure to preach the Gospel.
4. **I Timothy 4:12** – He was afraid of being rejected because he was so young.
5. **I Timothy 5:23** – It is possible that his stomach problems and frequent illnesses were the result of his fears and insecurities.
6. Timothy needed to make a decision – **I will not fear!**

### III. Speak Out Your Decision, Not What You Feel.

A. **Psalms 3:6** (KJV) – *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about.*

- B. **Psalm 27:3 (KJV)** – *Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*
- C. **Psalm 118:6 (KJV)** – *The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?*
- D. **Proverbs 3:24** – *When you lie down, you shall not be afraid; yes, you shall lie down, and your sleep shall be sweet.*
- E. **Isaiah 12:2 (KJV)** – *Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*
- F. **II Timothy 1:7** – *God has not given me a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*
- G. **Psalm 56:3-4** – *What time I am afraid, I will have confidence in and put my trust and reliance in You. By [the help of] God I will praise His word; on God I lean, rely, and confidently put my trust; I will not fear. What can man, who is flesh, do to me?*

#### IV. People Who Made A Decision To Get Out Of The Boat

A. The boat represents known safety. When we are in the boat, we are not taking any kind of a chance – we can feel a support under us, and we like that feeling.

B. **Peter:**

**Matthew 14:26-31** – Jesus came to the disciples walking on water. It frightened them, but Peter was bold enough to try what he had seen Jesus do.

1. He was also smart enough not to step out of the boat until Jesus called him.
2. He stepped out boldly, then after a while became frightened.

He got his eyes off Jesus and onto the storm.

3. Jesus proved His faithfulness and saved Peter from drowning.
4. Peter did not fail; he had a slight setback. His boldness showed Jesus that He could work with Peter and accomplish great things.
5. **Matthew 16:18-19** – Jesus told Peter, “On the rock of your faith, I will build My church; and I will give you the keys of the kingdom.”

Perhaps if Peter had not stepped out of the boat in **Chapter 14**, Jesus would not have said what He did to him in **Chapter 16**.

C. **David:**

**I Samuel 17:32-50** – David boldly came against Goliath.

1. The fact that he took action is no definite sign that he felt no fear.
2. He acted in boldness.
3. I saw a war movie recently with John Wayne. The battle was raging and one of the young privates who was very frightened asked him, “Don’t you ever get afraid?” John Wayne replied, “**I am always afraid, but I do what needs to be done.**”

D. **Esther:**

**Esther: Chapters 2 and 4** – Esther made a decision to be bold, even though she was afraid.

1. **Esther 2:7-8** – Esther was taken into the king’s custody.
2. Mordecai wanted Esther to go before the king and plead for the Jews.
3. **Esther 4:11-16** – Even though Esther was afraid, she decided to do what was right even if she perished.

She got out of the boat and saved a nation.

E. **Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego:**

**Daniel 3:14-27**

1. I am sure they felt fear many times before their deliverance.
2. Nebuchadnezzar saw the fourth man in the fiery furnace, but the Bible does not say that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego saw Him. **Maybe they had no natural awareness of the help they were receiving.**
3. When we step out in boldness, God always joins us and provides the strength we need to go through or He gives us what we need to say. He supplies wisdom, creativity, finances, etc.
4. **Step out and find out!**

F. **Daniel:**

**Daniel 6:10** – When Daniel knew the writing had been signed (forbidding prayer to any god other than the king), he bowed down on his knees with the windows open and prayed three times a day as before.

1. I believe he decided to do this. I don't imagine he felt like it, but he made a right choice.
2. When he was placed in the lions' den, it did not appear he had made a right choice.
3. But God sent angels to shut the lions' mouths.

V. **People Who Made A Decision To Follow Feelings**

- A. **Psalm 78:9** (KJV) – *The children of Ephraim, being armed and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle.*
- B. **Judges 7:3** – 22,000 of Gideon's men were rejected for battle due to fear.

1. 68.75% of all the men were fearful.
  2. It is no wonder our progress is so slow.
- C. **I Samuel 17:24** – All the men of Israel fled from Goliath, and they were sore afraid.
1. David was the only one who acted boldly.
- D. **Numbers 13:1-33** – Twelve spies had been sent out. Ten were afraid and two were bold.
1. Approximately eighty percent were in fear and twenty percent were bold.
- E. Which percentage are you in?
- F. If you are in the wrong percentage, are you willing to change?

## VI. What Opens The Door For Fear?

- A. **II Corinthians 12:9** – Looking at your weaknesses causes fear.
1. No need to fear your weaknesses or the enemy – His strength is made perfect in our weakness.
- GOD DOES NOT CHOOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE ABLE;  
HE CHOOSES THOSE WHO ARE AVAILABLE.
- B. Looking ahead opens the door for fear.
1. We don't have tomorrow's grace yet!
  2. God gave the Israelites manna for one day only. They had to trust Him for tomorrow's supply.
  3. The Lord's Prayer – *Give us this day our daily bread.*
  4. **Matthew 6:34** – Don't be anxious about tomorrow; each day has troubles of its own.

5. Worry over tomorrow steals our strength to deal with today.
- C. Being around negative people
1. Choose your friends carefully – you need people who will build you up, not ones who will frighten you.
  2. Example: Perhaps you mention that you have a pain in a certain spot in your body and then your friend says, “A woman at work had a pain in that exact spot, and it turned out to be cancer.”
  3. Example: You mention that you are excited about the fact that you will be out of debt in three more months and your friend says, “We will all get laid off before then.”
- D. Not having a revelation concerning God’s unconditional love for you personally
1. **I John 4:18** – Perfect love casts out fear.
  2. **Romans 8:35-39** – We are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us.
- If we don’t know His love, we will be conquered instead of being the conqueror.**
3. If we believe God loves us, then we will believe He will take care of us.
- E. A lack of experience with the faithfulness of God
1. Anyone who has not had enough time to experience God’s faithfulness will listen to fear more than those with experience.
  2. Each thing we go through gives us experience, and that experience is very valuable. It makes it harder for Satan to defeat us the next time.
  3. **Isaiah 41:10-15** – God will make us invincible through a variety of experiences.

4. **Proverbs 3:13** – We get wisdom and understanding  
(drawing it forth from God’s Word and life’s experiences.)

## VII. Choose To Believe.

- A. We can choose doubt and fear, or we can choose to believe God.
- B. It takes less emotional energy to believe than it does to doubt and fear.
- C. It doesn’t cost you anything to believe. It cannot possibly do anything but help you.
- D. **John 11:39-40** – Your circumstances can be so dead that they are stinking, but Jesus said: “If you will **only believe**, you will see the glory of God.”

LET US MAKE A DECISION TO BELIEVE –  
CHOOSE TO BELIEVE AND SEE THE GLORY OF GOD!





## PERSONAL NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# PERSONAL NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---