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Lesson Focus

Understand that individual choice is one of the first principles established by God.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom.6: 16).

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

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EXPLORING DOCTRINE SERIES: THE DOCTRINE OF CHOICE

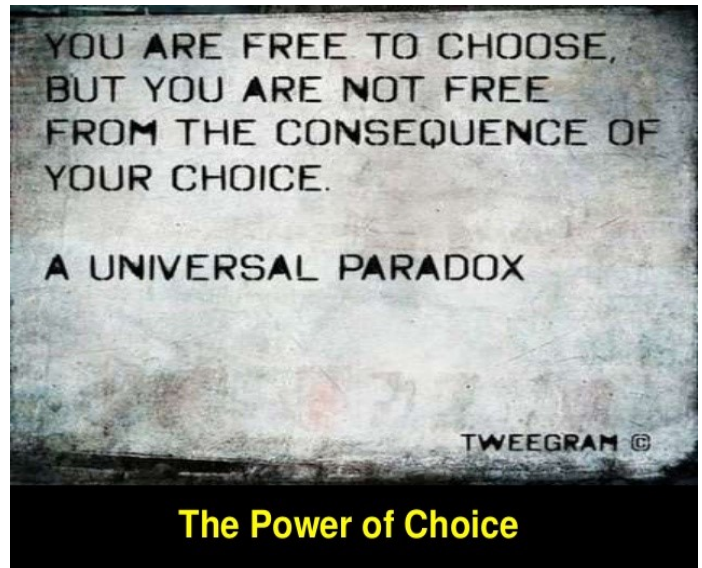
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LESSON 5

The Power of “CHOICE!”

The power and free will to choose between good and evil is part and parcel of the primitive consciousness of the human race.

It is stamped upon every language, presupposed in all social systems, and is the sure foundation upon which the earliest and the latest codes of justice rest.



A Free Moral Agent

Man, as a moral agent, is free—free to choose, free to think, and free to act. Hence the exhortations of Scripture: “Choose you this day whom ye will serve;” “I have set before you life and death, therefore choose life;” and “Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.”

Power of choice implies free will and therefore responsibility. Christ, in addressing men, always assumed their freedom of choice—“Follow me;” “Come unto me;” “Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.” And the Apostolic injunction, “Quench not the Spirit,” has no meaning unless we are able to do so.

Our destiny is largely, if not wholly, in our own hands. We are not feathers in the wind, or straws on the stream, but individuals with souls and wills and consciences. T

Therefore, we fix our destiny by our character, and we fix our character by our actions.

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It is true even in common things that, after we have reached years of maturity, the best decisions are the dispassionate decisions we make for ourselves.

The choice other people may make for us is of passing value only, and cannot command us like the choice we make in the exercise of our just personal liberty.

However, it is best that our personal liberty be guided by a source greater than ourselves; the only such source is God!

He is the Spirit of Truth, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:" (John 16:13).

No one should make a choice based on a lie, especially one that determines our eternity.



Talent is a gift, but our character is a choice. Talent is natural ability, our gift from God, but we have the power to determine our character. That power rests on a foundation consisting of the choices we make in life. And those choices almost always dictate the amount of trust others have in us and to what level of leadership we rise.

John C. Maxwell

Choose Your Own Master

*"I call heaven
and earth to
record this day
against you, that
I have set before
you life and
death, blessing
and cursing:
therefore choose
life, that both
thou and thy
seed may live:
Deut. 30:19*

Each person has a God-given right to choose his or her own master.

But, understand this, **choice matters** in that it determines ones destiny.

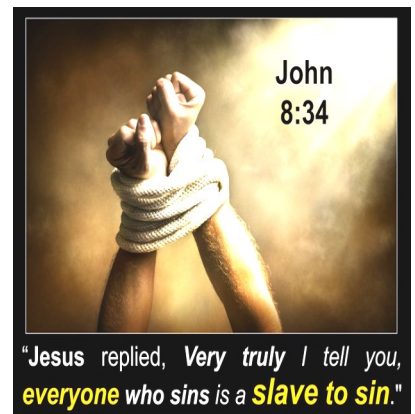
We live and die by our

choices.

Apostle Paul explains how quite vividly,

"Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads

to righteous living (Rom. 6:16).



All Are Born In Sin

The fact that all have sinned and come short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23), means that every one stands in need of the remedy

to remit sins.

Therefore, every human being must now chose to:

- Continue living in sin, or
- Chose the new and

living way provided by our Lord Jesus Christ through His sacrificial death on Calvary's cross.

Choices We Must Make

- ◆ **Confession of sin is a choice**—the sinner must acknowledge and confess sins to be saved.
- ◆ **Repentance of sin is a choice**—the sinner must turn from sin to be saved.
- ◆ **Forgiveness of sin is a choice**—the sinner must ask God for forgiveness of sins to be saved.
- ◆ **Water baptism is a choice**—the sinner must be baptized in water for the remission of sin to be saved.
- ◆ **Prayer is a choice**—we must pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17).



- ◆ **Worship** is a choice—God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:24).
- ◆ **Faith** is a choice—without faith, it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6).
- ◆ **Holiness** is a choice—Be ye holy; for I am holy (1Pet 1:16).

Read Rom. 6: 15–23

Moses' Choice

Hebrews 11:24-26

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to suffer affliction along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward!"

Moses was an extraordinary character. Born in times of bitter persecution, his life was preserved by a special providence, and his education conducted at the expense of the persecutor of his people. His name means, "Drawn out of the water."

He was divinely **drawn** out of the water by Pharaoh's daugh-

ter. He was **drawn** out of his privacy in Midian by the grace and power of God to lead God's people out of Egypt.

He was prepared for a remarkable work, and was elevated to a remarkable post of dignity, responsibility, and labor.

Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.

Moses was taught of God, so he **believed** the promise made to Abraham; he **confided** in the veracity of the God of Jacob, and, therefore, **chose** "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time." Noble-minded man! His heart was

wise, and his conduct was commendable.

There are many pleasures in sin, we should never deny that. Many people are enjoying the pleasures of a sinful life. They do find much pleasure in the indulgence of the carnal passions and propensities.

The excitement produced, the hilarity displayed, and the enchantment felt, is called pleasure; **youth loves it, pride feasts on it, and carnality is increased by it.**

Moses solemnly, deliberately, and voluntarily chose "rather to suffer affliction with [God's] people than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time."

Moses made his choice between the children of God and their sufferings and the Egyptians and their pleasures.

CHOICE
the right,
power, or
opportunity
to choose;
option

