

FREE WILL

Everyone has a freedom of choice. God is all powerful and has the ability to do what ever He wishes. However, Christians serve a God of Love. He doesn't have to force anyone to worship Him. He gives all an equal opportunity and the choice to come to Him. There are overflowing BLESSINGS in accepting His Son, Jesus and freely giving your heart, mind, and body to Christ.

JONATHAN'S STORY

One day at work, Jonathan and Greg were in a meeting. The director, David, was known to be tough as nails and to push his employees over the line. During the meeting, David complained how the company's revenue was down:

“Jonathan and Greg you both are responsible for creating revenue. These low profits reflect how bad and low your character is. How did either of you manage to get hired within this company?”

David continued his tirade and even added a few profanity laced words for injury.

Now Jonathan was already off to a bad day, he woke up late, spilled coffee on his good pants during rush hour traffic, someone had parked in his designated parking spot, and now David wanted to criticize his hard work. He was fed-up. Standing up in the meeting, Jonathan spoke:

“David, I'm sick of your mouth. I've put in fourteen hour days with this company and no one has bothered to say a simple thank you. Now, you of all people want to talk down to me? Do you know that no one in this room likes you, let alone can stand to look at you? It's no wonder that your wife left you.”

David looking a little pale, whispered, “You're fired.” Jonathan quickly left the room with all eyes on him.

GREG'S STORY

One day at work, Jonathan and Greg were in a meeting. The director, David, was known to be tough as nails and to push his employees over

the line. During the meeting, David complained how the company's revenue was down:

“Jonathan and Greg you both are responsible for creating revenue. These low profits reflect how bad and low your character is. How did either of you manage to get hired within this company?”

Now Greg knew David was wrong in his behavior. He also knew that arguing with David would not change his mind. But should he “man-up?” No one had cursed him out since high school and he definitely wasn't going to allow a grown man to do so in front of his peers. As Greg allowed his anger to build until it was almost overflowing, he remembered what the Proverbs 16:32 said, “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty.” As Greg let those words repeat over and over in his head. One of the board members spoke up:

“Will everyone excuse us while we have a private word with David?”

Jonathan and his co-workers got up one at a time from the table. Each knew that it would be the last time that they would see David.

Who handled the situation correctly? Jonathan or Greg? _____

List the most significant differences between the two situations.

Journey to Salvation

Let's analyze both situations. Observe how Jonathan allowed his flesh (emotions) to control his actions. From the moment we step out of bed, Satan begins his assault onto our minds. As Jonathan faced each separate conflict before the meeting, he should have spoken the words aloud, "This is the day *which* the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 117:24). John was wrong in looking to man as his source for acknowledgement. Psalms 46:1 reads, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In personally attacking David, Jonathan failed in the golden rule spoken of by Jesus: "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 7:12). Jonathan is a fine example of how emotions and feelings control our actions.

Satan constantly uses our emotions to gain a strong foothold in many conflict based situations. Yet, in Greg's situation while his emotions were running high, he was able to control and reign in his emotions.

Can you describe a situation where you did not use wise judgement?

What would you do differently?

CRITICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR WALK WITH JESUS CHRIST

Bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be continually be in your mouth.

Psalm 34:1

.....

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!!

Philippians 4:4

.....

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

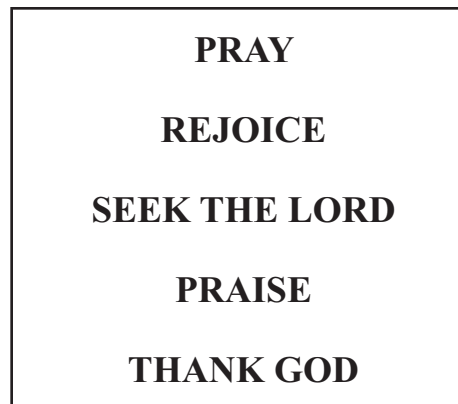
.....

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. **Rejoice** always, pray without ceasing, in everything **give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

1st Thess. 5:15-22

.....

FIVE THINGS WE MUST DO TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST



Many people believe they have to go to a priest or preacher to communicate with the Lord or to have the Lord answer their prayers. Thankfully, this isn't the case. Jesus came to save those who are lost. By **praying** to God, the Father, on a daily basis you develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. In **rejoicing** and **praising** His name, you glorify Him. In **seeking the Lord**, you learn to get close and diligently seek Him for help and you gradually learn how to depend more and more on Him. Seek the scriptures for yourself and open your heart to the Lord and He will reveal Himself to you. By **thanking Him**, you offer your gratitude and recognize that all things given to you are from Jesus Christ and to Him shall you give the glory.