



Pre-decisions

Many people have never thought about the fact that they have to make **pre-decisions**. They wait for the time of pressure to determine how they will react, say, or do.

We can determine how we will act by the pre-decisions that we make. Many times, we say things like, “you never know,” but the truth is that if we prepare our hearts, we can know what we will do in certain situations.

We can predict our response by making pre-decisions today. As we fix and prepare our hearts to seek the Lord, the result is sound pre-decisions and choices.

Fixing our hearts not to depart from the Lord must be done in advance. We shouldn't be moved by whatever temptation comes our way. We can prepare our hearts such that no matter what the temptation or decision we need to make, we can't depart from the Lord because our hearts were fixed and established betimes.

Every pre-decision and pre-choice are a seed and it carries within itself the harvest of its nature. The decisions that you will make in the future are determined by whether you will make them today.

Most people wait for a time of difficulty and pressure to make their decisions and because of that, they always make the wrong decisions.

We must make a DECISION today that will help us make most of our decisions tomorrow. Don't wait for a storm to prepare or build your house on solid ground. If you do, you will be swept away by the storm and pressures that arise.

Integrity predetermines its actions or what I will do before temptation. It makes decisions ahead of any temptation. It has moral absolutes set in place and established. We have the grace to walk in integrity and make pre-decisions.

Below are some of the examples of the Word of God we can learn a thing or two from on this subject.

A. Salvation

- a) Did you know that salvation is a pre-decision?
- b) You do not wait to die to make a decision of your eternal destiny.
- c) Those that do not make Jesus Christ their personal Lord and Savior will not be able to do that at Judgement day. It will be too late.
- d) We have to make those pre-decisions right now not after death or while standing before the Lord.
- e) I have encountered some people who say they will make their decisions on their death bed. What a sorry mindset! It might be too late.

B. Daniel, Mishael, Azariah, and Hananiah

- a) Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore, he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”
 - i) To “purpose” something in your heart is to choose. It is to determine what your response and decision will be.
 - ii) Here in this scripture, we see clearly that Daniel and his friends made a pre-decision not to defile themselves with the portion of the king’s meat.
 - iii) They saw this coming and they made their minds up on how they will react and what they would do, and they did not depart from that pre-decision.

- iv) This is the very same way they acted later in their lives. They were not fazed by any situation because they made up their minds betimes on certain issues.
 - v) They did not wait for the heat of the moment to make those decisions. If we make pre-decisions, we will not panic nor give in.
- b) **Panic is usually a sign of a lack of pre-decisions and pre-choices.**
- i) If we have made pre-decisions and pre-choices, we will not panic. It shows a heart that wasn't prepared betimes.

C. Jesus and the Cross

- a) John 10:17-18 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."
- i) It is very clear from these verses that Jesus chose to lay down His life. This is the reason He came. So, Jesus made a pre-decision of what He will do it.
- ii) If Jesus decided to go to the cross in the garden of Eden He wouldn't have gone. It was the wrong time to try to make such a big decision.
 - He had made this decision long before this moment. Decisions that we make ahead of time are the ones we will stick to the most.
- iii) John 10:15 "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

D. Rehoboam

- b) 2 Chronicles 12:14 "And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."
- i) It is guaranteed that if we do not seek the Lord and prepare our hearts, we will do evil.

- ii) Unlike Rehoboam, David "fixed" or "prepared" or "established" his heart in advance so that when temptation and adversity came, he had already set his heart in the direction it should go.
- iii) Whenever we prepare our hearts and make pre-decisions, we are determining and deciding what directions to go in a certain situation. If we want to go North, we have to prepare our hearts to go North. We don't just get to go North all over a sudden without any effort.

E. Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 19:3 "Nevertheless, there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and **hast prepared thine heart to seek God.**"

- a) This verse shows that Jehoshaphat prepared his heart to seek the Lord. Compared to Rehoboam, Jehoshaphat was a godlier King by far because he prepared his heart to seek the Lord.
- b) Our hearts don't just get to know and seek the Lord by themselves. This doesn't happen naturally without any effort on our part.
- c) We must take the initiative and put in the effort to seek the Lord. One of the main things I love about King Jehoshaphat is that he was a man who prepared his heart to seek the Lord (2 Chronicles 19:3).
- d) It takes a lot of effort and dedication to seek the Lord. Looking at the leadership of King Rehoboam, we see the very opposite of Jehoshaphat. **Rehoboam did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord, and therefore he did evil** (2 Chronicles 12:14).

We should not only seek the Lord in tragedy but all the time. It ought to be a lifestyle.

If we don't, we may not always get the results we desire. We can't just use God as a microwave or a slot machine where you put a coin and "God" comes out. **If you want to only visit faith in times of trouble, you will not get the same results as those who live by faith** (Habakkuk 2:4).

We should seek the Lord every time, and when trouble comes, we will have our fellowship and relationship with the Lord will pull us through. Our endurance, faith, and wisdom could be produced from our continual seeking of the Lord. **Minutes of seeking the Lord will not produce the same results as years of seeking the Lord.**

Have you heard someone say, "I prayed just as they did, but I didn't get the same results? Why is it? Is God fair?" Such folks only see the minute-long prayer, but they don't see years of seeking, fellowship, and preparing our hearts to seek the Lord. It takes time and years to know the Lord. It's a growth process for each one of us and you should not skip yours because it takes a while. We all have been there.

"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little;" (Isaiah 28:10, 13).

What we envy, wish for, admire, see, or even desire in other people's lives takes time, years, and years of **cultivation, preparation, seeking, and fellowshiping with the Lord.**

F. David

"And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle." —1 Samuel 17:20

"Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. 46 This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel

47 And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands." —1 Samuel 17:45-47

- a) David shouted for the battle, which implies he was neither afraid nor scared.
 - i) He was excited to see the demise of the Philistines.
 - ii) We should have the same attitude and go hard after our Goliath with a shout of victory and cheer knowing we are going to conquer.
 - iii) Even when the enemy intimidated and spoke negative words against the children of Israel, David was strong and not afraid.
 - iv) His reaction was predetermined long before he came to experience the challenge of Goliath because he had prepared his heart to seek the Lord while he was still in the bush keeping sheep.
 - v) This is one of the reasons David did not flee into hiding when all the rest were fleeing.
 - vi) He was not paralyzed by the threat of Goliath. His heart was prepared (2 Chronicles 12:14) and fixed ahead of time before this crisis came.
- b) What we do when there is no pressure, or no crisis determines what we will do when pressure and crisis hits.
- c) When David was going to fight Goliath, he knew exactly what he was going to do to him even before he stepped forward.
- d) He had taken some time to make **some pre-decisions and pre-choices** out of a heart that was already fixed on the Lord (Psalm 57:7).
- e) During a crisis is the wrong time to prepare our hearts.
 - i) **Decision made in the heat of the moment is usually bad ones.**

- ii) We need to have preplans and pre-decisions for our enemies before they ever show up. We have to prepare our hearts to the point that we know what we will do in case we are faced with such a situation.
- e) Psalm 101:3 “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”
 - i) This is one of the other pre-decisions David made. David was not saying this in the heat of the moment but before.
 - ii) “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.”
— Proverbs 21:31

G. Job

- a) Job 1:1 “There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.”
- b) Job 31:1 “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”
 - i) Because Job was seeking after the Lord, preparing his heart to seek the Lord, He made a decision not to look lustfully before a woman.
 - ii) This was not a decision made in a time of temptation but a pre-decision. It was birthed from seeking the Lord and hating evil.

H. Joseph

- a) Genesis 39:9 “There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”
 - i) Many people want to get the same results as Joseph but very few are willing to prepare their hearts as he did.
 - ii) Joseph’s rejection of this illicit sex offer did not come from anywhere, but from a relationship that he had with the Lord. The statements that Joseph

said prove that he was seeking after the Lord preparing his heart to seek the Lord.

- iii) You need to make a decision about almost every situation. General decisions make very little meaning for all decisions.
- iv) You can't just make a general decision of what you will do in every situation, but you must make a specific individual decision for everything you could encounter such as:

- Dying for your faith (Martyrdom) or renouncing.
- Mission field in a place undesirable
- Financial compromise
- Sexual compromise
- IRS and 501(c)3
- Fame
- News and media
- Change of calling
- What job offers will you take? How are you going to choose?
- What will be your decision if your spouse cheated on you?
- How far are you willing to go or stay with your spouse?

b) **We should be making decisions not only in negative things but also in the positive things and encounters.**

c) Most of the time we just think of what we will do and although that is a good step, it is still insufficient. We should not just think about what you will do.

d) **Think and speak it forth for it to be established.**

- i) Choices require declarations (2 Corinthians 4:13).
- ii) When you declare and speak forth your choice, you will establish that thing through the law of life and death is in the power of the tongue.
- iii) You will be committed to something you choose and declare.

- iv) When you make your choice and decision, declare it loud. If you make one you will hardly break it. If you do not choose your choices and declare them with your mouth, you will still have room for wavering. If you have not made a choice, you will waver (James 1:6-8).
- e) **One of the reasons we follow the wrong option or make the wrong choices is because we have not chosen to follow God by preparing our hearts to seek Him.**
 - i) Just like we choose to do other things, we must choose to follow God.
 - ii) One of the reasons people fall away is because they have not pre-chosen to follow the Lord.
 - iii) Make your choices at the beginning not as you go.
- f) **A decision or choice hasn't been made if there remains an option.** Psalm 119:31-33, we ought to choose the way of faithfulness.

Conclusion:

How you see yourself on the inside, will determine or influence your choice. What you see is your choice. Today, I choose health. I choose to take my thoughts captive. I choose Jesus. I choose to believe. Choose today and choose right. With an option to choose well, you have to have the option to choose wrong. As you prepare your heart to seek the Lord, you will make sound pre-decisions and pre-choices.

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” — Benjamin Franklin

“Prepare the umbrella before it rains.” — Malay Proverb

“Proper preparation prevents poor performance.” — Stephen Keague

These lyrics are a part of a song; *I will follow* by Chris Tomlin and portray the heart of pre-decisions.

Where you go, I'll go
 Where you stay, I'll stay
 When you move, I'll move
 I will follow you

Who you love, I'll love
How you serve I'll serve
If this life I lose, I will follow you
I will follow you

I will live for you alone
You're the one I seek

Rich Kanyali