

## HOW TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS

### ACTS 1:15-26

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The decisions you make today will determine where you are tomorrow. How do you make good decisions?
2. Acts is a book which emphasizes Jesus and how He was viewed by those who preached Him. (Luke 1.1-4; Acts 1.1)

#### I. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ACTS

- A. The book of Acts is a book about the work of Jesus.
  1. The work that Jesus came to do on earth has been accomplished. (John 19.30)
  2. **Acts 1.1:** *"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach"*
- B. The work that Jesus began to do.
  1. **Matthew 16.18:** *"On this rock I will build My church"*
  2. What is the church that Jesus set out to build? A collection of people who are saved. (1 Pet. 1.9,10)
  3. The work of Jesus centered around bringing salvation to the world and thus building His church. (Acts 1.8)

#### II. HOW DO YOU MAKE GOOD DECISIONS?

- A. Go to the Bible for the answers.
  1. **Acts 1.15-20:** *"For it is written in the book of Psalm"*
  2. Decisions require divine counsel. (2 Tim. 3.16,17)
- B. Turn to the teachings of Jesus.
  1. **Acts 1.21,22:** A witness was one who was with Jesus.
  2. Why? This is what Jesus wanted. (Acts 1.8)
  3. Decisions require the counsel of Jesus. (Matt. 28.19)
- C. Pray to God for guidance.
  1. **Acts 1.23-25:** *"And they prayed..."*
  2. God gives wisdom to help with challenges. (James 1.5)
- D. Let the will of God work in your life.
  1. **Acts 1.26:** *"Then they cast lots..."*
  2. God works in our lives providentially. (Phil. 2.13)

CONCLUSION: Your eternal destiny is your decision.

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*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"*  
-Mark 16.15

June 8, 2025

#### MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM  
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

### "We Ought to Obey God"

Preaching the gospel in the first century came with life-threatening dangers. In the early development of the church, Peter and John were thrown in prison (Acts 4.3; 5.18). The authorities even *"plotted to kill them"* (Acts 5.33). When they were forbidden to speak the name of Jesus, Peter responded by saying, *"We ought to obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5.29). Consider two important observations.

We are to obey God. This implies that there is a law that we are expected to follow (James 1.25; Gal. 6.2). We sin when we fail to keep His commandments (1 John 3.4). The result is spiritual death (Rom. 6.23). Jesus came and died to restore our broken relationship with God caused because we failed to obey Him.

We are to obey God rather than men. It does not matter what religious leaders tell us. They do not set the standard of righteousness. God does. It does not matter what the government allows or forbids. Our government does not determine right from wrong. God does. We are to submit to our spouse, our employer, and our government (Rom. 13.1). However, if the laws and ways of men diverge, we are to obey God rather than men.

How do we know what God expects of us? The word of God has been given to us *"that we may do all the words of this law"* (Deut. 29.29).  
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## JESUS KNOWS YOUR FAITH

### MATTHEW 9:2

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Your faith affects every area of your life.
2. In Matthew 9, Jesus saw the faith of a paralytic and those who carried him. [Break down verses 1-8]
3. What kind of faith does Jesus see in you?

#### I. WHAT DID JESUS SEE?

- A. **Matthew 9.2:** *“When Jesus saw their faith...”*
1. “Saw” (eido): To know completely, see with the mind.
  2. Jesus saw individuals who accepted, trusted and acted on the fact that Jesus was the Son of God.
- B. In His ministry, Jesus saw individuals with great faith.
1. **Matthew 8.10:** *“Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”*
  2. **Matthew 15.28:** *“O woman, great is your faith!”*
- C. Jesus also saw individuals with little faith.
1. **Matthew 6.30:** *“will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”* Worry is symptomatic of little faith.
  2. **Matthew 8.26:** *“Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”* Fear is symptomatic of little faith.
  3. **Matthew 14.31:** *“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”* Doubt is symptomatic of little faith.
  4. **Matthew 16.8:** *“O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves”* Human reasoning.

#### II. WHAT DOES JESUS SEE IN YOU?

- A. Do you have faith when you are in poor health?
1. **Matthew 9.22:** *“Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.”* (cf. Matt. 9.28)
  2. Do you have the faith to trust in God’s care?
- B. Do you have faith when you are fighting your demons?
1. **Matthew 15.28:** *“O woman, great is your faith!”*
  2. Do you have the faith to rise above your demons?
- C. Do you have faith in the power of prayer?
1. **Matthew 21.21,22:** *“And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*
  2. Do you have enough faith to trust God to answer?

CONCLUSION: Why do you have little faith? (Ps. 78.11)

## “Such Were Some of You”

Many who live in sin believe that they were born that way. They see no need to change their way of living and believe that God accepts them for who they are. And we live in a culture where people are encouraged to accept their chosen lifestyle as normal. This is especially prevalent this month which is called “Pride Month” and officially designated by the Federal Government in 1999. However, the Bible shows that no matter how deeply sin is engrained into your being, anyone can change.

The Bible emphasizes change as a significant component of restoring and maintaining your relationship with God. Repentance was at the center of the ministry and teaching of Jesus. As Jesus began His ministry, He said, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matt. 4.17). When you turn to the end of the Bible, Jesus addressed the seven churches of Asia Minor. He told six of them to repent. Change was also the central message of the apostles. After Paul was converted, Jesus sent him to preach, *“in order to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God”* (Acts 26.18). During His ministry, Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17 that God *“commands all men everywhere to repent”* (Acts 17.30).

We are all required to change the way we live our lives. But for some people, is change even possible? Are some born to live a life of sin? And if God created them that way, does that suggest that such a lifestyle is not sinful? The answer is found in 1 Corinthians 6. In this chapter, we are told about individuals who were living a lifestyle of sin. In verse 9, we are told that *“the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Cor. 6.9). We are then given a list of what God considers unrighteous which includes fornication, idolators, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, and thieves. (1 Cor. 6.9,10).

When you keep reading, you come to verse 11: *“And such were some of you.”* There were people who were members of the church in Corinth who used to be homosexual, but gave up that way of life. There were people in Corinth who used to be thieves, but they were thieves no more. What caused them to change? The verse continues, *“But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”* To paraphrase, these former sinners were saved by the blood of Jesus which they contacted through their obedience to the gospel.

Change is required to have the hope of heaven. And change is possible through the transformative message of Jesus (cf. Rom. 12.1,2). When you come to realize how much you are loved and how much God has done for you, it moves you to want to change for Him and be the kind of person God desires (1 John 4.19).

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