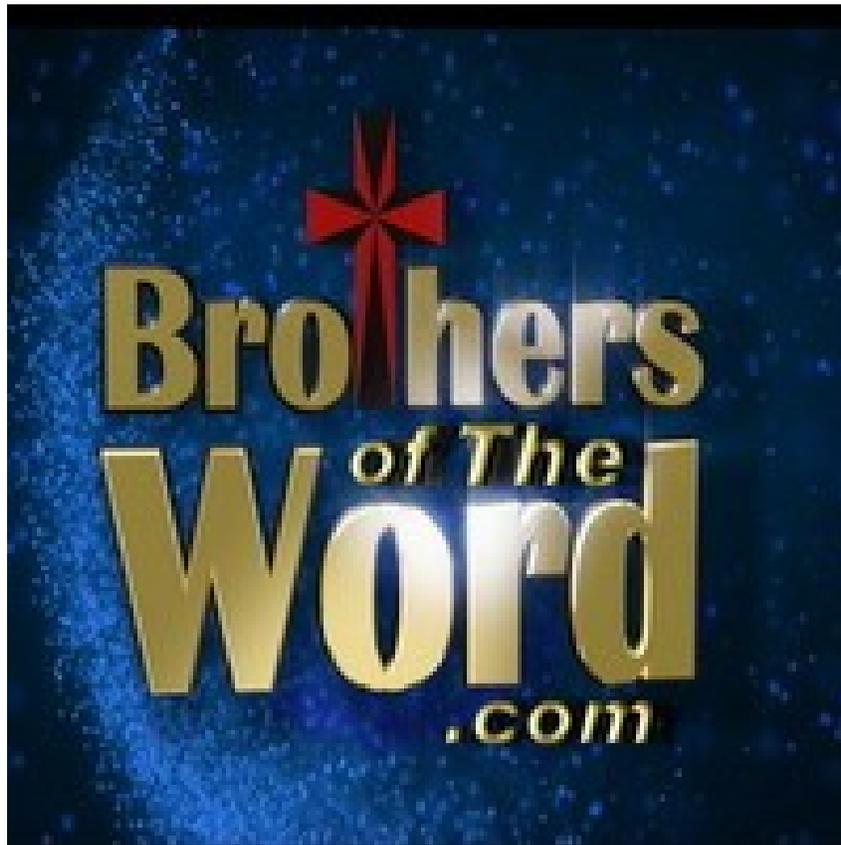


# The Power Of Choice

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(Applause)

We welcome those of you joining us by television and those of you joining us at BrothersofTheWord.com, certainly delighted to have you tune in today and we are just so overjoyed to have you worshiping and joining us today. Stay tune to today's message.

I would like to just show you just a little bit humor I came across this week. An Atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make man without you." God said, "Okay, let me see you do it." So the Atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful of dirt but God stopped him and said, "Oh, no! You get your own dirt."

Well, open your Bible if you will to the Book of Deuteronomy there in the Old Testament. The fifth book of the Bible, the Book of Deuteronomy. And I want to just look at a verse there in Chapter 13. Deuteronomy Chapter 13 and I just want to look at a couple of verses here verses 19 and we'll also read verse 20. Deuteronomy Chapter 30:19 - 20. When you get there, say "Amen."

Let's begin in reading in union there at Verse 19, "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. That thou mayest love the Lord thy God and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him, for He is thy life, and the length of thy days, that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swear unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

And just read Verse 19 once again, "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."

And I just want to use that as subject, the Power of Choice. Notice that we have choices in life and I love this about God. God never forces his will on anybody. God gives men free moral choice. That's one of the reasons that God allows the devil to still be in existence. He actually needs the devil because he wants men to have the ability to choose. God doesn't want anybody locked up in heaven with Him who doesn't want to be there with Him. He wants people to be with Him because they chose. They made a decision to be with Him. So the devil is actually a useful tool of the Lord. In fact, he is there so that we literally have to choose, we have to make a choice.

And so I just love that that we always literally have to choose, we have to make a choice. And so, I just love that that we always have a choice in life. We always have a choice in life. And now, this verse tells us that the choices we make when we choose life, and I just love this about God. He says, "I put before your life and death blessing and cursing." And then he says, "You got to make a choice." And then, he told you what to choose. He said, "Choose life!" Just in case there was a misunderstanding or just in case we didn't know he told us the answer to the pop quiz, choose life, choose life. Isn't that wonderful that God loves us so much? He wants us to choose life and blessing. And when we make this choice of life, when we choose correctly in life, we make a decision for God. This verse let's us know that it did not only blesses and effects our lives, but it actually blesses and affects our children, our grandchild, our great grandchildren for generations to come. The choices you make in your life literally affect your decedents for generations to come.

Notice were it said there in verse 19. Notice that it says at the end Deuteronomy Chapter 30 in Verse 19. Notice were it says there Deuteronomy in Verse 19, "That both thou and thy seed may live." So your choice for life not only affects you and your life but it blesses and affects your children and your decedents for generations to come. How of you know -- some of you are enjoying blessings because of our grandmother or from great grandmother or a father. Someone in your lineage who honored God and obeyed God and chose God those blessings are rolling down into your life as a result. And so, when you make a decision to honor God and serve God, God says, "I'll bless your children. I'll bless your seed. I'll bless your seed."

Now our seed, our seed is not only our natural children but your seed could also be those people who come into God's kingdom as a result of your witness, everybody that you come into contact with. And you know we got to be excited about raising up seed for God, raising up seed for the kingdom of God. And so, everyone that I our witnesses had influence over becomes our seed because you birth them. You gave birth to them in the kingdom of God. And so when you make good choices in life, you bless everyone that you meet. You bless everyone you meet when you make good choices in life.

There was a young man I made a choice years ago, some 20 years ago. I made a choice to witness to a young man. And I simply sent him a postcard with an encouraging word and I was inviting him to our Bible study that I was conducting at the time. And this young man was unsaved, he was not in the church, he was not a Christian, he didn't know God but I sent him that little witness. And this young man told me that for weeks, he sent that postcard on his television and for weeks, he will walk by and look at it, and for weeks he would look at it. He would just look at it. Until eventually spark in interest and he actually came to the Bible study. And when he came to the Bible study he ended up giving his heart to the Lord and I want you to know that today he serves as a senior pastor of the church.

(Applause)

Oh, you see that's part of your seed. That's a part of your seed, that's a part of your seed. Their influence that you witness that your testimony will have. Those people be counted as a part of your seed, as a part of your seed. So when you make choices, when you make good choices in life, it will bless everybody that you meet. And so the power of choice, you know the greatest power that God gives us is the power to choose. Your life is the sum of the choices you will have made on this earth. That will be the sum total of your life. It will be the sum total of the choices that you have made on this life. Your destiny unfolds according to the choices that you make.

Now, I know a lot of people, they didn't have the opportunity to choose where and how they were born or who they were born to or under what circumstances they were born under. You didn't have the opportunity to choose the hand that you would dealt in life. But you do have a choice in how you play that hand. You do have a choice in determining how you end up in life. This is a Brother point. You are not responsible for how you are born but you do determine the way you die. You are not responsible for how you were born but you do determine the way you die. So we have a choice. We have a choice. Never allow yourself to stay in the condition that you're find yourself in. If it's not a good condition, you don't have to stay there. You don't have to remain where you are God has given you. He has given me the Power of Choice. He has given us the Power of Choice. I love that. We don't have to stay. We don't have to stay where we are we don't like where we are. We don't have to stay there.

God has given us the power of choice. The greatest power He could have ever given us is the power of choice. And so when you find yourself in a situation in life that you don't have to remain, God has given us the power of choice. Now, I just want to remind you of a few things that when you are in a particular situation in life and you may not like it. I just want you to make you aware of a few things. Number one, when you have made mistake, I want you to know that every mistake is an opportunity to improve and grow. Every mistake is an opportunity to improve and grow. Turn to your neighbor and say that, "Every mistake is an opportunity to improve and to grow."

Now, it's not a matter of if you will make mistakes but when, when you will -- you will make mistakes. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You will make mistakes." Now, if you don't make any mistakes, then you're not doing anything. That means you are not attempting anything new. You aren't daring to step out and put some new horizons, conquering some new world exploring new possibilities. You aren't taking any risk, you're never venturing out, and you're not willing to a whole lot if you don't make mistakes. So mistakes are not bad. You always had the opportunity to improve and grow whenever we make mistakes.

I like something that I came across in one of John Maxwell's books. He has something entitled *The Five Rules for Being Human*. Number one, you will make mistakes. Number two, there are no mistakes only lessons. Number three, if you don't learn the easy lessons, they get harder. Number four, a lesson that is not learned must be repeated. And number five, you will know that you learned a lesson when your actions changed. Every mistake is an opportunity to improve and grow. So when you make a mistake ask yourself, what can I learn from this? What can I learn from this? How can I improve? You learn if you improve, if you grow then your mistake was not in vain. Don't make a mistake and then let it be in vain. Learn something from it, get the lesson from it. And ask yourself, how can I grow? How can I improve? What did I learn? How can I learn from this?

The second thing I want you to realize is that it's never too late to change. It's never too late to change. Don't believe the lie that you can't teach an old dog a new trick, you can. I see old dogs everyday doing new tricks. You can't teach an old dog new tricks. So never believe that lie, but I want you to know that it's never too late to change. It is never too late to change.

You know people tends to say things like you know, I've been this way all my life, or you knew I was like this before you married me, or this is just the way I am. No it is never too late to change. When you say you can't change something, you are insulting the ability and the power that God has put in you to choose. And you say that you can't change, you are insulting that God's ability in you to change, to choose, to make a change. And so, it's never to late -- turn to your neighbor and say, "It's never too late to change."

And then number three, I want you to know that you always have a choice. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You always have a choice." You always have a choice in life. You can remain positive or you can be negative. You can become bitter or you can become better. You can be up or you can be down. You can curl up and die or you can get up and get moving. You always have a choice. You always have a choice. You can be a victim, you can allow things to victimize you or you can be a victor. You have a choice, you have a choice.

Now, there are some areas that you have a choice saying I think they are very important, "You have a choice in your attitude, which attitude you will choose." I mean you have a choice each day to choose a particular attitude. Your attitude is a choice. Your attitude is a choice. You can let yourself get been out of shape over something or you can bounce back and be flexible and be joyful, and keep a good attitude and keep ride on and just go with the strike, just take life in a stride and keep a good attitude in life, but that's a choice. This is Brother point. If you keep your heart right and your attitude right, God can turn things around for you. I really believe that. You keep a right heart before God and a right attitude before

God, God will turn it around for you. He will turn it around for you but that's a choice. We have to choose the attitude that we will have in life.

Some people are so disgusted with life and they just complain about life and they just complain about their lot in life. Not realizing that they can change it, they can change it. And if they can't change what's happen to them they can at least change how they look at what has happened to them. So you can't change it, you can't change a circumstance and you have to change the way you approach your circumstances. And so many people they just get on a shape and this is how a terrible attitude in life, but you have a choice. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You have a choice." You have a choice. You have a choice in your attitude. You have a choice in your attitude.

Now, here are some other areas that we have a choice in, you have a choice in your determination. Am I going to give up or am I going to keep going? You got a choice in your determination. You got a choice in whether or not you're going to obey or disobey God. Do I want God's will for my life or not? I remember Pastor Nathaniel said, he said this concerning timing. He made a decision to tie in the church that he grew up in -- back to this church, Pastor -- stood up he talked about it for one minute. He said, "This is God's word." And he said, "You either going to do it or you're not going to do it." And Pastor Nathaniel said he made up in his mind right then that he was going to do it. So he made a choice. So we make a choice whether or not we're going to do God's will or not, that's a choice. We make a choice whether we're going to live in faith or whether we're going to live in fear, that's a choice, that's a choice.

Joshua said in the Book of Joshua, Joshua told the people he said, "Look!" He said, "I don't know who you are going to serve." He said, "I don't know are going to serve the God of our fathers or you all are going to serve the present God here in this land that people that's dwelling here." But he said, "Ask for me in my house, we will serve the Lord." So that was a choice. We have to make a choice. We have to make a choice. You got to make a choice whether you're going to stay the same or whether you're going to change for the better. That's a choice, that's a choice. You have to make a choice whether you're going to live and walk in love or you're going to be bitter and deal with unforgiveness, and all these types of negative emotion. That's a choice. That's a choice that we make.

Here is a particular choice that I really like. This is something that Steven Furtick said, he said, "One of the most important choices you make everyday is not the choice between right and wrong. The real choice is between good and great." You have a choice of whether you got to be a mediocre or you got to stand out. You got a choice were you got to have a good marriage or you're going to have a great marriage. You got a choice of whether you got to raise good boys and girls or great men and women for the kingdom of God. You got a choice of whether you got to do

the minimum on your job or you got to set a new standard on that job by your greatness.

I mean we have a choice. We have a choice but I want to let you to know don't settle for something good, make it great. Turn to your neighbor and said, "Don't settle for something good, make it great!" Make it great, I mean if you're cooking tonight don't settle for a good dinner, make it great! Make it great. Throw some herbs on it. Open up your spice cabinet and make it great. I mean if you got to do it, make it great. Make it great! Don't settle for good, make it great. Don't settle for good make it great, make it great. Make it great.

And I'm closing with this, our choices is revealed several things about us. Our choices reveal our thinking. Our choices reveal our character. Our choices reveal our level of maturity. Our choices reveal our values. Our choices reveal our priority. Our choices reveal whether or not we're walking in wisdom. Oh, when -- says this is wisdom is the result where we learn to make better choices. So even your choices will manifest whether or not you're walking in wisdom the power of choice, the power of choice.

Praise God! I am just so happy that God gives us the power to make choices and he pulls for us to make good choices in life. Every time you get ready to put something in your mouth, you're making a choice for life or death by the food that you partake on. Every time you -- every time you get ready to eat you go to ask yourself, am I putting life on my body or am I putting death in my body?" Same folks, we tend to blame God down the line, "God, why did you do this to me and let this happen to me?" God has the choices. You've made the choices. You've made to let it to that point. So that's why God wants to arrest our attention in the beginning and say, "I want you to make some good choices." You have before your life and death, choose life blessing and cursing, choose blessing. And so, we're just so grateful that we have such a wonderful God to help us, to make good choices in life. And your choices can really determine the destiny of your life.

I have a friend he told me that when hew as a teenager and he said he was actually walking home from school with one of his best friends and they were walking together and he said that this car pulled up. It had a few guys in the car and they were up to no good. And the guys told them to get in. And my friend said that his friend got in the car but he did not get in the car. And he said looking now at his friend's life, he believe that that one choice send him down a wrong road in life and he said that -- he just said were he ended up in life and where my friend ended up in life, he said, he believes that if he didn't gotten in that car it would change his destiny for the worse. It would have cursed his life, just one choice. Our choices are so powerful and they impact our lives and not only our lives but future generations that spring from our lives. Praise God. Amen.

So we want to ask God to help us, give us the ability to make good choices to choose right things, beneficial things that are toward life and health and blessing. Amen. Amen!

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Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the Word.