

(The big idea – our life experience is mostly directly related to our choices and we have the power to choose well through the Holy Spirit)

Title: Everything happens for a reason!

When I hear this I wonder if they mean some kind of a new age thought?

- our destiny is left in the wisdom of the “universe”
- -go with the flow of the river – somewhere at the end is where our destiny is
- Possibly – I am not really responsible for the thing happen in my life

“Everything happens for a reason”

True: - Everything does happen for a reason

Comes down to basic cause and effect

There are things in our lives that are out of our control,

- Ecc. Says time and chance happen to them all.
- sometimes our lives are directly effected by **choices** or actions of others.
- Natural disasters & accidents
- Many potential causes

However, Good news

Many times – perhaps Most times the Reason things happen in our life is directly related to the **choices** we have made

(implies we do have some control)

Our power to choose

What does the bible says about our power to choose

and effect the direction of our lives?

God’s instruction to Israel Duet 30/19 –

“Behold I lay before you life and death, Therefore **Choose** life that you and your offspring may live!”

- God has given mankind the freedom to choose
- We give direction to our lives through our choices
- Our choices have the potential to lead toward life or death

Duet 28 demonstrates–

Gets very specific

Starts with If you obey the Lord your God – choose life!

first 14 vrs.

- Blessed will you be in the city, the country,

the fields, your kneading bowl and your womb etc. (vrs 1-14)

- Next 50 or so vrs - However if you don't choose well – you will experience curses and consequences

Our choices effect our outcomes

Our God given power to **choose** is an important key to how we experience life.

even when “chance” happens, we can **choose** how we will respond.

(make lemonade out of lemons)

My experience (how a bad decision led to bad outcomes)

(Sickness and bitterness story.)

Bible says - Bitterness rots the bones choosing death

Also says - Laughter is good medicine The joy of the Lord is my strength

Choices for life-giving responses – experience good outcomes .

How we choose to respond to our circumstances has consequences for life or death

Life in Jesus

what did Jesus say about the life he died for us to have

John 10/10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

2 options life or death

Abundant...

Greek – concordance – (4053) super abound in excess, superabundant in quantity, or superior in quality. Exceeding abundantly, advantage, exceeding very high, beyond measure, superfluous (surplus, more than enough), vehemently (in a [forceful](#), passionate, or intense manner; with great feeling)

*Amplified: ¹⁰ The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have **and enjoy life**, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].*

- Jesus wants us to enjoy an abundant life
- The enemy came to Steal Kill and destroy
- The agenda of the enemy, and Jesus Agenda for us
- Choose which one to follow

The challenge - The War

- We are living in a war between good and evil ,
- Battle ground for us– in the mind -ability to make right choices
- we have an enemy who is constantly wanting to undermine and come against us, tempting us to choose badly

- Cartoon – devil/angel bottom line – How will you chose
- HS and devil vying for control of your mind.

[1 Peter 5:8](#) (amplified)

*Be sober [well balanced **and** self-disciplined], be **alert and cautious at all times**. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls **around like a roaring lion** [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour.*

But.... [1 John 4:4](#)

*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world**.*

We have the ability to win that war and choose well through Christ

- So... everything happens for a reason and not always, but very often it is related to the choices we make.
- God has given us the freedom and power to choose
- Jesus wants us to enjoy the abundant life.
- But ... we are in a daily battle in our mind where the spirit of God is calling us to choose well, and the enemy is tempting us to that which will ultimately lead to steal, kill and destroy.

How do we win this battle in our minds

- Zechariah 4:6 - 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.
- Gal 5:16 ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

HS will help us to make good choices in the heat of the battle and in our daily walk.

How do we engage the fullness of the HS in our lives

Eph. 5:18 - Don't be drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit.

- Give control of your life to God

-

On our Journey as Christians. - 2 choices –

1: Jesus Died for my sins – invite him in receive Jesus – deposit of HS

2: Bought with a price – my life is not my own - Surrender. fullness

Savior and Lord

- *It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. Gal 2:20*
- *Not my will but your will be done. Luke 22:42*

Surrender and live for Gods purpose and glory

3 kinds of people

(watch, make, what happened?)

*1 Cor : 2/14 But the **natural man** does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Slide 2

*1 Corinthians 3:1 – and I, brethren ,could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to **carnal**, as to babes in Christ.*

Slide 3

Tend to find reading the bible hard or uninteresting

- *Lack of peace in their lives*
- *Unsure of their purpose/calling*
- *In charge of their own lives (doing it my way)*

1 cor 2: 15 But he who is **spiritual** judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. 16 For “who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ

Slide 4

Tuned into the voice of God.

- *Enjoys spending time with God*
- *Enjoys reading the bible – makes sense to them*
- *Experiences the fruit of the spirit – love joy peace self control patience kindness gentleness*
- *Loves to give and support God’s work*
- *Effectively shares the gospel with others*

Margarets story.

Surrender and Let God be captain of the ship

Jesus take the wheel

Jesus Challenge

- *Why to you call me Lord, Lord, but do not do the things I say? Luke 6:46*
- *Choose obedience*
- *He calls us to follow his lead*
- *His plans for our lives are the best*
- *No longer – Lord here are my plans, please bless it,*
- *But What do you want me to do and by your spirit I will do it and it will be blessed*

Stop, think, pray, be filled.

Review....

Being filled with Holy Spirit is key factor in living God's plan and his best for you

Power for living!

God ideas not good ideas

For it is God who works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure Philip 2:13

Walking in the Holy Spirit is a moment by moment lifestyle

Choices I make every day – life or death

Who will have control in this decision (receive Forgiveness)

HS is there working, leading, directing

Prov 65:11 - You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance.

Doesn't mean there will never be difficulties,

- Jesus said we would have tribulations in this world,
- word equips us to face the difficult times and be overcomers.
- Read the word, learn his paths, experience the abundance

Everything happens for a reason?

Yes and many times it is related to the decisions we make

- We need to actively and intentionally engage in life, surrendering to Him, and using our God given power to **choose and to choose well by the spirit**

This is power for living.

- God's spirit in us leading us to good choices that lead to the abundant life he bought for us,
- fruit of the spirit flowing out from us
- the ability to effectively witness to our family, friends, community.

End with - Behold I lay before you life and death, therefore choose life that you and your descendants will live.

- Pray.