

Should We Make Our Own Decisions?

Life as a son is not following the super-spiritual line of, “I don’t do anything unless God tells me”. That school of thought sounds good, but it’s not a Kingdom one. I used to think that way, but getting to know Father and listening to what he says to me, has radically changed my view on how and when I do things.

The fact is, as sons, we work in partnership with the Trinity and that includes operating out of the autonomy we have as humans. That human decision-making permit was given to us at Creation, and it hasn’t been rescinded since then or eliminated from our human functionality. To think otherwise, would be to live inferior to our created status which the Creator gave us as planet-managers and vice-regents. In addition to the autonomy that others have, we have an additional level because we are sons.

So, what decisions can we make without having the Spirit tell us what to do?

Basically, any that we choose. That may sound irreverent to those who are in a servant relationship with ‘God’¹, rather than one of sonship. Servants only do what their master tells them to do – they can never make their own decisions while in service. That’s not us. We’re sons, and that means we can operate as a son does.

Take a good hard look at what’s in Jesus’ parable that we call ‘The Prodigal Son’². The message in it is a picture of us (the lost sons) coming back into Father’s family, not about sinners repenting because of the debauchery in their life. To understand the meaning of it properly, you’ll have to look at it with different ‘eyes’ than those that theology has trained you to look with.

Notice in his allegory what the father said to his older son, the one who didn’t leave home: “Everything I have is yours”. In context, the inference in that statement was that he could’ve decided to have a party with his friends any time he wanted to. He had autonomy as the rightful son of the father to do as he wished in certain things, even though he worked for his father and did what he was delegated.

Bringing this back to us today, there are lots of things that we need to make decisions on, that don’t require the Spirit to tell us what to do. For example: Getting out of bed, undertaking our duties at work, cooking dinner, getting the truck serviced, putting the garbage bins out in time for collection, moving the car under the carport in a hail storm, plus countless others. Even so, we aren’t independent of the Spirit. We should always have our ‘spiritual ears’ open, all day long, so we can hear the Spirit’s input (in various ways) before we step into any task. We should listen for him, but if he says nothing, we do the job in the way we decide to do it, and we do it with excellence.

NOTE: The concept of a partnership with the Spirit may be hard to grasp, but it’s the Spirit who conveys messages to us from Father and our King.

Here’s a message from Father outlining how we make decisions by first listening to him so we have his wisdom to proceed:

“You will be faced with situations that you have never considered until now, and you may not know how to respond. So, be still in that moment; collect your thoughts and quiet your emotions. Focus your attention on the power of My presence to give you the strength you need to take the next step. I am with you!”³

Another, about making better decisions about what we can handle:

“Do not take on more than you can effectively handle. Stay within the limitations of your body and soul, and do the best that you can with what you have been given. Maintain a positive attitude, and

1 – ‘God’: I use this term in inverted commas because ‘God’ is the generic term people use, while I don’t any more. I have an intimate relationship with the members of the Trinity, so I refer to them by name out of relationship. From my oneness with them, I also refer to them as The Trinity.

2 – I call it ‘The Prodigal Father’, because prodigal means ‘outrageously lavish’ and ‘giving in abundance’. Not just wastefully extravagant.

3 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Mar. 30, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

your grateful heart will be rewarded again and again.”⁴

And another, about making decisions about where we are going:

*“Beloved, you cannot progress until you decide where you are going. Identify your destination and keep it in the forefront of your mind as you journey on. Looking back will only serve to take you off course. Focus on your spiritual purpose, and do not forget your ultimate goal.”*⁵

Here’s another message from Father which outlines our responsibility to do things and not abandon them by making him responsible:

*“Take the time to evaluate your vulnerabilities. Make whatever changes are necessary to stay safe and protected. Strengthen your resolve to make it through current challenges. It may not be easy, but it is necessary. Keep your wits about you and calculate your best course of action. When in doubt, ask for wisdom.”*⁶

Can you see in that message that we are responsible to look after our own wellbeing? “Calculate your best course of action” may include Holy Spirit’s advice, but it may not. The fact is, we can’t willingly put ourselves in danger (even financial danger) and expect Father to protect us, except in emergencies. In any dangerous situation, he’ll always be there to give us advice if we’ll listen for it. Why not ask him for it, and wait ‘til you get an answer.

On the occasions where we’re in a precarious situation – one that we can’t control – then he’ll step in and take over. However, he never overrides the autonomy that he gave us to make decisions, as that would not honour us for who we really are. This assistance is provided to those who need it, especially those who surrender their lives and ‘lean into’⁷ him. His help is even available when we function out of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, rather than the Tree of Life.

To finish, here’s a safe way to live in partnership with the King so he handles problems that arise from our poor decisions, rather than us trying to get out of consequences: Make him your justifier and defender. When you’ve made a decision and it has negative consequences, rather than trying to sort it out, surrender to him as your justifier and defender, and take your hands off the issue. Then rest, and let him work it out for you. In that way you’re working in partnership with him, allowing him to do what you are unable to do or unqualified to do.

To assist in preventing yourself from getting into problematic situations, evaluate your vulnerabilities and know how to protect yourself against getting into trouble in the first place. That’s no different to wearing a seatbelt when driving, a helmet on a construction site, or leather gloves when using a pick and shovel.

Updates

Finally, here’s a couple of encouraging words from Father about our decision-making:

*“Settle down and be methodical in all that you do. Remember the old adage, haste makes waste. These times have been challenging, but you can easily overcome if you stay calm and proceed with caution. Do not take on more than you can effectively handle.”*⁸

*“Take the time to evaluate your life to see where you have been, where you are now, and where you want to be. Your evaluations and decisions will take on extraordinary meaning and purpose for the days ahead. They will either make you or break you. Be deliberate in the choices you make; they will have greater than normal significance.”*⁹

4 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (April 4, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

5 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (April 8, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

6 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Mar. 24, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

7 – “Lean On or Lean Into” canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Lean-On-or-Lean-Into.pdf

8 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (Mar. 26, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

9 – Marsha Burns “Small Straws in the Soft Wind” (May 4, 2023) ft111.com/smallstraws.htm [ARCHIVE: www.ft111.com/straws2023.htm]

“Follow My lead in making changes this season. Change should never be the product of boredom or a whim, but should be well thought out and a necessary improvement to your life. It should have an element that simplifies and fortifies where you are and where you are going.”¹⁰

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)