

## DECISION--2016!

The United States has some big decisions to make this year in November. Electing a new president, senators and congress representatives will greatly effect the direction in which our country proceeds in the future. I encourage all Americans to vote and to vote for candidates they feel will guide our country in a more unified and prosperous direction.

No--for those of you who thought I was now stepping out and writing political articles--Gottcha! This is not an article supporting nor negating our political system or those running for office. The subject matter here is about "decisions" in our personal lives!

From the moment we open our eyes in the mornings to when we go to sleep at night we are making decisions. Most, thankfully, are not life changing and we make them truly in the blink of an eye. Decisions like, "orange juice or grapefruit juice for breakfast this morning?" Or "which dress or pair of pants will I wear today?" We typically make those decisions without even thinking. Hundreds of little decisions every day!

Once in a while though, we are faced with making those "big decisions". Decisions that can, and will, effect our lives for quite some time after or, possibly, for the rest of our lifetimes here. Thank heaven, those types of decisions do not come along on a daily or weekly basis! The hundreds of little decisions are quite enough for us on a regular basis!

I recall when I made the decision to stop drinking alcohol and using recreational drugs. I remember the overwhelming feeling of "I can never drink alcohol nor use drugs again"--NEVER is a huge and intimidating word when it comes to making decisions! I do remember though, after agonizing with the "never" part of the equation, that the decision wasn't that hard to make. I realized my life was out of control because I was being controlled by the influences alcohol and drugs had on me.

I'm still, by the Grace of God, not consuming alcohol or using drugs! It's been over 20 years since I had my last "drink" or "smoked my last joint". Now, I know some people would say, "What willpower!"--but will power had

very little to do with it. Willpower pits the decision against the human ego--the part of us that "thinks it knows best and always wants to be in control". Sheer willpower very seldom, if ever, is the answer to changing our lives!

For me, the key to making that life changing decision was the decision itself. Once the decision was made, it was made with a conviction of faith that I would never drink or consume recreational drugs again. I have a friend who used to refer to making decisions as "turning the corner"--which I think is a great analogy! When someone is driving and "turns a corner" they can no longer see the road they were traveling on. The farther they go, after turning the corner, the farther the old road is behind them! It's out of sight and out of mind.

Jesus of Nazareth put it this way, "No one who puts his hand on the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God". When we "look back", or begin to question our decisions, we lose focus on and faith in our original commitment. We, at that point, bring in the aspect of willpower relegating us to a battle between our decision and our ego. As I have written before, the Kingdom of God represents the realm of all possibilities--and "looking back" only brings doubt, decreases our faith and causes us to question our original resolve.

Some of us will face making a few hard choices and decisions in next several months. Decisions that will effect our lives for a long period of time. Decisions about our finances, our health, our relationships, our employments and even our Spiritual paths and destinies. I invite all of us to make these decisions only after much thought and prayerful consideration--and, once we "know" the right decision, to "not look back"!

All my best--

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