

September 25, 2013

EXTREME FAITH

**How do you
define Wisdom?**

"How do you get wisdom
and once you have
it what do you
do with it?"

Making Good Decisions

DECISIONS, DECISIONS AND MORE DECISIONS....

How do you make your decisions....

Are you going to be in a bad mood or a good mood? Believe it or not it is a decisions more than it is an emotion.

We all have decisions to make every single day that we live. What we deiced can determine how we answer the first question. Good mood or bad mood? Yah you are probably still thinking that it is an emotion and not a decision. It's okay I use to think the same way! But over time I learned that emotions are decisions just like everything else.

Look at it this way if you will. If you are making good decisions about everything else in your life, then life can be pretty sweet. If you just started with good decisions and smart wise choices then everything else tends to work itself out pretty well! If I made good choices about what I eat, and how much I eat then my health is better and I make better decisions about everything else in my life. If I am making good decisions then when it comes time to deiced what mood I will be in then it is easy to make the decision to be in a good mood. Now today, well today there has not been one good decision that I have made. I am in a bad mood because I choose to be in a bad mood. It is that simple. Everything else in my life is not going good and so when it was time to deiced what

mood I was going to be in I chose the mood that best fits with all of my other decisions.

So our emotions can revolve around the decisions that we make, and they our emotions are decisions as well. What can we do? What can I do? Well of course make better decisions for starters and then I will have a better time with my mood. The Bible puts it this way. Galatians 6:7-9 **7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.** That's me today a person who has become weary in doing good. So I have made one mistake after another and it has caused me to choose to be in a bad mood. I must start following the first part of this verse and live from the Spirit and make good decisions. When I start doing this I will have a better chance at making the decision to be in a good mood. It starts and ends with God. I have to make decisions from His wisdom and from His Spirit and well lets face it I will choose to be in a good mood.

**GOOD
DECISIONS**



Decisions are tough, we need help in making good ones. The only way that we can make good ones is to trust God and the direction that He is pointing to. But what is really cool about God is this. He does not just point to a direction, He comes along with us. Even when we make bad decisions He is right there with us. Why do you think He comes along with us in our bad decisions? Well He knows that we are going to need His counsel always, so He stays close to us and is ready at any minute to give us good wisdom. The better we get at making decisions the closer we get to God. The only way to make good decisions is to ask God!

Sometimes we need God to Hit the Restart

"Restart" by Newsboys

I was finished, game over
Couldn't carry the weight on my shoulders
At my end, in trouble
Knocked down on the ground seein' double

But then Your love, love opened my eyes
Lifted me up, up, now I'm alive
I raise my hands, hands to the sky
Singing "Oh oh oh oh oh oh" "Oh oh oh oh oh"

Oh Lord, I'm a different man
You gave me a second chance
I was lost, I was fallin' apart
But You came along, and You hit the restart

You, You, You hit the restart
You, You, You hit the restart
You, You, You hit the restart
You came along, and You hit the restart

I was twisted, like bad religion
Fully committed to my way of livin'
I heard the preacher, but never listened
On a dead end road without a mission

Bridge:
You make all things new
That's just what You do
You're making me new



This song is featured on
Restart album
by
News Boys

Real Life Heroes

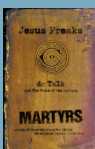
If You Love Jesus Don't Sing

Tom White

Cuba

1979

"Well, this isn't bad," Tom White mumbled to himself. He stood in a pitch-black, cold room. He could feel the wind pouring into the room from a vent above the door. Exploring the cell, he found a bed with broken springs, a stinking mattress, and an old wooden chair nailed to the floor. He lay down, but sleep was impossible. It was just too cold. His sleeveless coveralls were made of thin cotton, so they weren't much help. He wondered how long he could stay alive in this room. Tom White, an American Christian, had made many successful drops of Gospel literature over Cuba, distributing more than 400,000 pieces. But on May 27, 1979, his small plane crash-landed on a Cuban highway, just as he had finished a night drop. He was immediately arrested by the Communists, who questioned him and put him in solitary confinement. Finally the guards put a hood over his head and took him to a little room for more questioning. "It sure is warm today, isn't it?" the captain taunted, taking off his military jacket to begin the interrogation. "Who do you work for?" "I work for Jesus." "Oh, is that right? And how much money did this Jesus pay you for making these trips?" "I took these trips for no pay. My pay is the love and blessing that God gives me for obeying Him." Most of the captain's questions centered around money, the CtA, and revolution. These were the only concepts of power that he seemed to understand. After three or four days of cold and little sleep, White was too tired to even follow his train of thought. He sat in front of his interrogator, his head dropping, his thoughts wandering. "How can I fight this? This could go on forever," White asked himself. Suddenly he had his answer. He explains: "The Holy Spirit gave me a measure of pity and compassion for this man who was more in prison than I. I stopped responding to his questions and stared directly into his eyes. 'Oh, God, help Captain Santos,' I prayed. 'Break through, Jesus. He is the one in the cold, for he has never felt the warmth of Your love.' I continued to pray in front of him like this for hours. His questions came less frequently until he finally stopped. 'What are you doing; he demanded. 'I'm praying for you.' The captain's mouth dropped open. He ran one hand back through his hair, then rummaged for a cigarette. This was the first time White had seen him smoke. The prisoner continued to sit rigidly as he was required, looking at Santos and praying. The captain looked nervously around the room, then started drumming his fingers on the desk. In the next session White was surprised to see him wearing sunglasses. Evidently he didn't want White to see his eyes. That's all right. God doesn't need eye contact. He deals with the heart, White thought, and continued praying. Santos sent for Major Alvarez. The major was always his last resort. Alvarez stormed into the room, red-faced and angry as usual. "So, you think this is a game?" he screamed, pounding on the desk for emphasis. "Now we are going to send you to see the third foot of the cat." White remembers, "I was thrown into another room. Following the wall in the blackness, I discovered there was no bed or chair. The blower vent over the door was fully open. The air was pouring out at such a terrific rate that my hair was blown straight out from my head. 'I tried to walk in the pitch blackness to keep warm, holding my hands out to keep from bumping into the wall. But the wall was too cold to touch. Besides, rather than warming me, walking only brought me close to the vent. I huddled in the corner of the room. 'Oh God, help me!' I cried out in despair. He would, only not in the way I wanted. I stuffed my coverall legs into my socks to keep the air from coming up my pants, then pulled my arms inside the sleeveless top. Continued on page 5



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks dc
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs

WISDOM

EXTREME APPLICATION

It's like the fresh rain that comes down, it cleans everything that it touches and it brings life! We need wisdom everyday to make the decisions that we have to make. You need a fresh start? You want to start over or make a new beginning? Then Hit the Restart and ask for Wisdom to come to you and get a fresh start!

Wisdom comes to all those who ask God for it. So stop trying to do it all by yourself and ask God to jump into your life and into your decisions!

Think About it (The Tension in making bad decisions)

What about it ever make bad decisions? It's okay join the club we all make bad decisions from time to time. But if we are not careful we can allow those bad decisions to lead to other bad decisions and then we are spinning out of control. When we find ourselves out of control, then we start believing that we can't make any good decisions so we just stop trying and well we don't even think before we decide something. This is a big mistake, we feel tension every-time we go to make a decision. We start to second guess ourselves while fear lurks around the corner making us think that we can't make a good decision. Talk about tension it can paralyze us so that we just don't move at all.

The Tension is to make a decision, and in that we have to make a point to always go to God and get help with the decisions that we need to make. God is good and He knows that we need His wisdom to make the decisions that we need to make. He will help us and guide us and give us great direction that will only lead us to the right decision. What we have to do is get over the fear of making a bad decision, and we need to get over ourselves and know that we need God!

So the next decision that you have to make, make sure that you include God in the process, and over time it will become the way that you make decisions.

Step One:

Ask God for Help

Step Two:

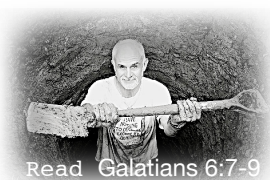
Follow His instructions

Step Three:

Ask God for Help

Step Four:

Follow His instructions



DIG IN

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

1. List three big decisions (I mean BIG!) you must make for your future.

2. Place an X next to the two most difficult decisions to make.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Doing homework or going to youth group | When to pray |
| What video or movie to watch | What to do on Friday and Saturday nights |
| What to do after school | Who to go out with |
| What kind of music to listen to | What to spend money on |
| What to eat for dinner | How much time to spend on the Internet |
| What clothes to wear to school | |

Now put a ★ next to the two easiest decisions.

3. Jesse loves to skateboard, but his parents don't like it because the other guys who skate seem like they're up to no good. He disagrees with his parents and decides to

4. Which of the following would help you make wise decisions?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Asking your parents for advice | • Flipping a coin |
| • Praying about it | • Going along with the crowd's decision |
| • Waiting a few days before deciding | • Letting someone else decide for you |
| • Reading your horoscope | • Finding Bible verses that give direction |
| • Asking a friend | • Going with what feels right |
| • Thinking about the consequences | • Asking in an online chatroom |
| • Deciding as quickly as possible | • Other— |

5. What do these verses have to say about making decisions?

Matthew 6:22-23

John 14:15-17

Romans 13:11-14

Galatians 6:7-8

UNDERSTANDING WISDOM

TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...

Real Life Heroes cont...

I stretched the top up over my nose so I could heat my body with my warm breath. This gave me times of relief, but then fatigue and slow but steady loss of body heat would cause me to start shaking. I couldn't bear to sit on the floor, nor lean on the wall. The only position that worked was standing with just my forehead touching the wall. "I don't know why I remembered to sing. But Gods hand was guiding and teaching me. As the levels of punishment grew more severe, so did the intensity of spiritual warfare. Satan tried harder to drag me down, but God gently raised me up. Psalm 3:3 says, He is my glory and the lifter up of mine head. God was gracious, merciful, and loving, asking only for a chance to prove Himself to me. "I started singing that great hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God' I sang 'Jesus Loves Me* Bible choruses, and every Christian song I could remember. I was no longer conscious of the cold, only of Jesus. With eyes closed, my head barely touching the wall, I whistled, sang, even imitated a trumpet blasting out praises to the Lord Although I didn't think through the many scriptures which support it, I had entered the highest level of warfare against the enemy — praise. Psalm 22:3 says that God inhabits our praises. I don't know how this is accomplished, but its true. The mighty Deliverer, the Messiah, the Savior was with me. He held my shaking body in His arms. I was with Jesus, no matter what happened." A guard opened the little steel window flap in the door and peered inside curiously. "What are you doing?" he demanded. "I'm singing about Jesus." "Why?" "Because I love Him" White replied happily. He slammed the flap and left. White continued singing. He returned a few minutes later and opened the window flap again. "If you love Jesus, don't sing" he ordered, then left. But White loved Jesus too much to stop singing. Over the next two days the guards came to check on him every three or four hours. The flap would open and a flashlight beam would snake across the floor looking for him. Still White continued to sing. At the end of those two days, he was returned to his former cell which, though still cold, seemed warm in comparison. Now convinced that he was not a super spy trying to overthrow their government, they had started White back up the treatment ladder.

After three months, Tom White was moved from solitary confinement to the main prison where 7,000 prisoners were kept. There he met and worshipped with members of the Cuban church who were imprisoned for their faith. An international campaign for his release helped trim Whites prison time from his original



Living life with

Extreme faith

and

Extreme vision

EXTREME FAITH MAGAZINE

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