

August 27, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

How do you
make
decisions?

Name:

Take me home!

LIFE is full
of
Choices

LIFE...

How do you choose?

We all have decisions to make and choices to choose from. With all the options that are out there how do you decide what to do about anything. Many times culture and our friends sway us to think this way or that way, and we have to decide is that a good thing? It depends on the culture and the friend that is influencing you. How do we decide what is right and what is wrong for us? How do you know that you decide something because it is what you would decide verse other influences helping you to make the decision that you thought was your own? That is a lot to wrap your mind around. Everywhere you look there are things that are seeking to influence you. You can't get away from it if you are going to live in the world with the rest of us. So what has to happen is you must decide what is the best influence that you should allow into your life?

How you make decisions defines you, and your character. When you make decisions you say a lot about who you are and how you process the world around you. As an individual if you can make decisions for yourself and from the core of your beliefs then you are living a life based on you and not on the current trends of the

world. If you are a follower of Jesus then your decisions should look like the decisions that Jesus would make. It is still you but you tend to think in the terms of Jesus you react like Jesus. He is the influence in your life. He is the one you seek to please at the end of the day. Now this is on the radical side of things because many people claim to be followers of Jesus but do not allow Him to fully influence the decisions that they make in life. If you are on the extreme side then you live out of the deep belief that God longs to guide you in the decisions that you make. Check out **Proverbs 19:21** **Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.** What this verse is saying is this. We all have ideas and plans for our lives, but they never stand and last if they are not in line with God's plan and purpose for our lives. God's purpose and plan is the best. Have you ever thought about what your dream car is? Think about it if you could have any car out there what would you get! Now lets say you got that car, but for some reason you traded it for a Yugo. See the picture above and to the right. When we do what we want without seeking out Gods help in our decisions in the end we trade our dream car for a Yugo. God wants the best for us, so we must follow Him in our decisions. His way is the Best!



Living Extreme means...

Extreme is knowing who you are and truly believing what you believe to be true. Trusting what you believe to lead you in all that you do. Many people say they believe many things. But they don't allow what they believe to be the thing that leads them to make the decisions that they make. Most people go with the crowd and do whatever the crowd is doing even if it goes against their beliefs. That is not extreme, that is kinda well the normal. Living Extreme is knowing who you are and what you believe about God shapes who you are and it is the base for all the decisions that you make. Making decisions from what you believe and having it match up with who you are inside and out is Extreme. How many people do you know that live this way? How many people do you know that know why they do what they do? Following the crowd is what most people do even if it goes against who they are inside. That is sad and the person is cheating themselves of being the real person they are. Do you know what you believe? Do you allow what you believe to guide you in the decisions that you make? Living Extreme is know who you are and what makes you, you is what you believe.

Would you rather...?

...drink a glass of vinegar or a glass of soy sauce?

...say everything you are thinking or never speak again?

...make decisions by yourself or have everyone tell you what to decide?

CHARACTER

Be what you believe to be true. Sounds easy but it is not always so easy. Because you need to know what you believe. What you believe about God, You, Your Family, Your Parents, Your Friends, and the World around you creates the frame work for how you see yourself and how you influence the world you live in. This shapes and forms your character, and your character guides your decisions. YOU must learn Who God is to know who you are...

Think About it...

(Making decisions out of your character...)

How many decisions do you make each day? That is a tough number to pinpoint, but Time magazine puts the number in the Thousands for each person. So how do we make all of these decisions? So are rather easy like what are you hungry for, well eat that if it is available. What will you do today? If it is a school day go to school. Other decisions need some guidance from a deeper source so you can make a good decisions. What is the deeper source? It is your character, the real you the one that you may or may not be in touch with. It is the person that is only influenced by you and the beliefs that you have. For many of us we want others to tell us how to think or what we should decide about different decisions that we have to make. We look to the crowd to make sure that what we decide is accepted by them. It is important for us to feel like we fit in, and belong. When we make decision we need to really look at the influences that cause us to decide what we decide.

Here are some steps you can take to help you make decisions based on your character verses, following the crowd, and every other influence that is out there.

STEP ONE: (think about and answer the following questions)

What do you believe?

About God.

About right and wrong.

STEP TWO:

How much do you depend on God, verses the rest of the world?

(the rest of the world would be family, friends, culture)

STEP THREE:

How many decisions have you made based completely on the fact that you are a follower of Jesus Christ?

(You decide what you decide because you knew it was what God would want you to choose.)

STEP FOUR:

Make a plan to process all big decisions through the filter of what does want for you? How does God see the decision. Make sure your decisions match up to the character that you want to live out in your life.

(Stand up in your actions and live out the relationship that you have with God in every decision)

Dig in and if you get confused along the way that's okay check in with your small group leader! Make a point to start making decisions based off our your identity and character that you have because you are a follower of Jesus!

You will find a freedom in decision making that is so awesome, when your decisions match up to the person that you want to be!

DIG IN

Proverbs 19:21

21 Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

Finish this Sentence:

(Fill in the blank... How would you finish this sentence?)

***The most difficult choice I've had to make up to this point has been...**

***Why are some decisions hard to make?**

***Have you ever thought about what God's purpose is for you?**

***If you made decisions based off of God's purposes what would change in the way you make decisions?**
