**“The Gift Of Choice”**

The Gift Of Choice to obey the will and word of the Lord. Can be a blessing in our lives or a curse in our lives. It all depends on how we choose to use this awesome God given gift. Let’s Get Into The Word!

**Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 11:26-28 (NKJV) says this,** “26 “Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.

**Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NKJV) says this,** “11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. 15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, **16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.**

Our blessings from God are directly tied to our choosing to Love God. Love is an action word and therefore must be accompanied by actions. Jesus said in **John 14:21 (NKJV) which says this,** **“21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”**

Therefore, if you are not experiencing the presence and blessings of the Lord in your life. It is because you are choosing not to obey the commandments and will of God for your lives. Which shows that you don’t love him. That can all change when you make a choice today to love him and yourself through obeying his will for your life. Amen!

**17 But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them,** 18 I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Turning away from the Lord starts in your heart and the manifestation of that is outwardly through your life. For instance, I used to praise the Lord but now I don’t. I used pray but now I don’t. I used to go to church and fellowship with the Lord and the saints but now I don’t. I used to trust God but now I don’t. My understanding used to be heavenly but now it is worldly again. This list is not comprehensive, meaning it is not complete. However, if any of these things fit your lifestyle today. Then you have turned away from the Lord in your heart and it is clear for all to see in your life. Again, this can all change if you choose to return and obey the Lord today. Amen!

As we close tonight. I want to remind us of what the Lord Jesus taught us in **Luke 15:17-20 (NKJV), which says this,** “17 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” 20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

Notice how this man life went from a cursed life back to blessed life because of his choice to repent and return to the Father. Therefore, if you have made choices that were against the will and word of God for your life. Then humble yourself, repent and return to the Lord. He will have compassion on you and accept you back into his loving arms and once again bless your life. Amen!

I Love You, Be Blessed!

Pastor Jimmy