

The Bishop's Corner

The Choices We Make

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15 NKJV)

God gives us the choice to serve Him; He does not force us to serve Him. When Jesus set us free from the power of sin, we were liberated and given the choice to serve God. Jesus said in John 8:36, “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” Now that we are free, our relationship with God is that of a father and child. As God’s children, we should want to do those things that please Him.

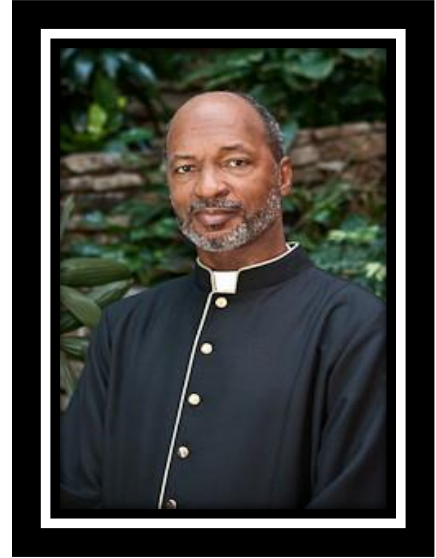
God desires for us to choose to come close to Him so He can bless us and meet our needs. James tells us in chapter 4 verse 8, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” We must make the first move toward God and be willing to obey His word, and He promises to bless us. Isaiah 1:19 tells us, “If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”

We must choose to walk in the Lord Jesus Christ and be rooted in God as Apostle Paul encourages us to do in Colossians 2:6-7, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

Finally, we must choose to pray daily and have a good prayer life so that we sense the presence of God when we pray. If we fail to pray, there will be a void in our heart. Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, “Pray without ceasing.” And Jesus spoke a parable in Luke 18, “that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” Jesus always prayed to the Father, and He taught his disciples how to pray. “And in that day, you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” (John 16:24 NKJV) Make the right choice today and choose to serve God.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
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For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."

