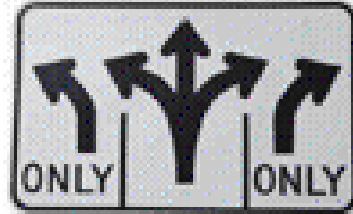


CHOICES

Our lives involve many choices from the most trivial and mundane to the important and exciting. From our childhood, choices occur in learning from conscience and casual observation, listening, and inputs from our other senses. The basis for choices may range from little or no experience and understanding, to much understanding and experience from learning, training, and education.



A child chooses to touch a bowl of soup and learns that some objects may be hot and painful to touch. A teenager chooses drives his car at high speed, and is been reminded that *life in the fast lane* may be exciting but very costly. A young adult chooses his career goals, applies to a college offering the related program, and embarks on her profession or vocation. Choices are made every day, of every week, of every year, and for a lifetime.

The adage, “Hindsight is 20/20” sometimes arises in the aftermath of a bad choice. “If only I had known about _____, my choice would have been different”, is sometimes the expression of regret or dismay over a particular choice. Choices are often linked or related in someway. Choices are made on a basis of rules or guidelines along with a variety of emotions. The child is cautious about touching objects having experienced the pain of touching something hot. The teenager is cautious about driving too fast after paying the high cost of previous occurrences. The young adult is satisfied about her choice of programs and, with confidence, anticipates future opportunities.

Don’t fret about bad choices – it’s part of learning; but do practice and develop the right basis for your choices. The rules and guidelines are very important; likewise, the frame-of-mind or emotions are also very important. Sometimes, a good rule to follow in the more serious choices uses the acronym “HALT” which stands for Hungry, Angry, Lonely, and Tired. Never make a serious choice when one or more of these conditions exist. Secondly, pray about your choices; preferably, before hand rather than afterward. Above all, remember the Proverb:

Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails; though a righteous man stumbles, he will not fall for the Lord upholds him with His mighty hand.

Thanks to the Lord who prepares our way, who guides us in choices, who listens and helps us as we call upon him, and forgives us when we make choices without Him. I urge and pray that your choices will begin and continue with Him as Lord of your life. Well done good and faithful servant!

In a **WORD**