

Choice to Rejoice

Life is full of choices. Some are more obvious than others. Man is privileged with choice, it is something God has granted to us all. However, we can NOT choose the consequences that follow those choices; they follow automatically.

Many of us have been taught this from little on up: choose rightly: choose based on the consequences you desire to obtain Do not choose based only on your current feeling. Choose what is right.

Somehow though, this thought process does not seem to translate into our concept of worship. We realize that pretending is a bad idea, and so we strive to be real and authentic. We quickly arrive at the idea that prayer, and our approach to God, needs to be something we feel, or it is somehow wrong.

But what if our approach to God, our thanksgiving, and our praise first of all, was offered to Him based on what is REAL, and on what HE DESERVES, not on what we feel? If we are to enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with Praise, (Psalm 100:4) and shout to Him, when exactly are we going to start? Ps 32:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. It seems to me that we have become so afraid of something, so fearful of some shadowy nothing, that we are unable to simply choose to shout to the Lord that He is good. We know we should rejoice, but we keep waiting until we feel it, to do it. Doesn't that amount to raw disobedience? Ps 98:4 ¶ Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

We can make choices, but we cannot choose consequences. Some of the lack of joy I see today (and sometimes experience) is a direct result of not simply obeying what God wants. . . a shout lifted up to Him, not based on what I feel, but based on WHO He is, and what He has done, and how good He is. Try it sometime, on your darkest day: take your problems, set them off to the side, and focus on Him. Then, simply begin to shout to Him all that He is, and praise Him for all He has done. When you are done, pick your problems back up and return to work.... IF you can still find them! Our problems have a strange way of righting themselves, as they lay at our feet during a rousing, shouting, praise session. Not all of them will go away, but it sure knocks them down to size, and gives us courage too. May God Bless you as you Bless Him.