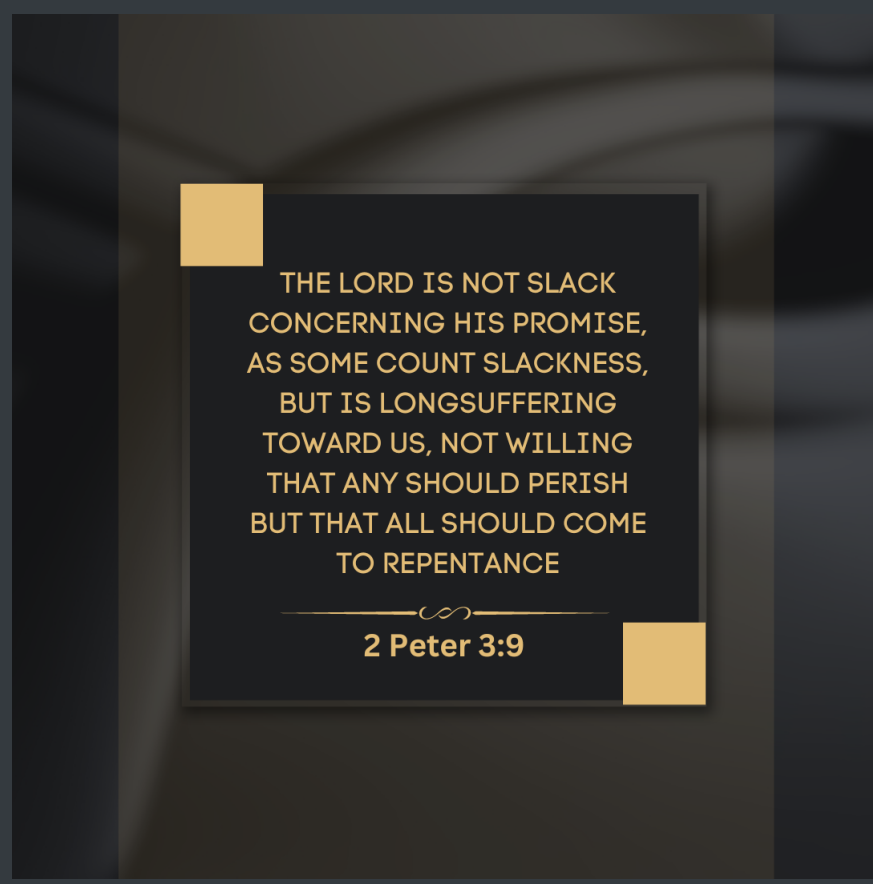


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### Choose Life



#### Faith Hill Church

Faith Hill is a multicultural, family friendly church where all people from all backgrounds are welcome. Our church is led by our Senior Pastors, Tafara and Chipso Butayi. Both of whom are passionate about the Word of God and seeing lives being transformed.



#### Prayer for today's devotion

Dear Father  
Dear Father  
I thank You for Your goodness over my life. I thank You for wisdom and understanding. You have given me everything I need pertaining to life and godliness. I will never lack any good thing as You are my provider and You desire that I have every good thing.  
(2 Peter 1:2-3)

Father, I thank You for understanding. I now understand that You are good all the time. I now understand that You are not the one who is in control of everything in this world as the devil is also operating in this world. I believe that all good things come from You and all bad things come from the devil. You are a good God and I thank You for that.  
(John 10:10)

I am convinced that the devil is the author of all the bad things in this world. As such, I will fight against him with all vigour, using Your Word as my sword. I believe that I am anointed, just as Jesus was, to destroy the works of the devil.  
(Acts 10v38)

In Jesus' name I pray,  
Amen

Dear Friend

Webster defines choice as: "alternative, option, preference...the power of choosing between things. Choice implies the opportunity to choose...free right or privilege of choosing; to exercise one's option." Has God, in His sovereignty, given all rational creatures free will? Do people really have a God-given privilege to choose between things? The answer to this question is a resounding YES! Right from the start, God gave mankind free will. Genesis 2:15-17 (NLT) says "The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." God did not want robots so he created human beings and immediately even in the Garden of Eden, He placed choice before them. He wanted men and women to love and worship him of their own volition. This free will exists today. In fact, God will protect your free will all the way to hell if you don't choose Jesus.

God has blessed human beings with the awesome privilege to make choices. It's an awesome privilege that comes with a huge responsibility because choices determine destinies. Freedom of choice is one of the qualities that distinguish us from the animal kingdom. We get to choose our spouses, clothes, houses, friends, government officials, clothes, and ultimately, Jesus. Deuteronomy 30:19 - 20 says: " 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; 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." Why would these people be told to choose if God had already predestined whether their lives would be blessed or cursed? There is a thing called volition or choice.

#### Heaven or Hell - God's choice or your choice?

God's Will is not automatic. 2 Peter 3:9 says " The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." It is God's Will that all should come to repentance and none perish but we have people perishing all over because God's Will is not forced upon anyone. God gave mankind free will to choose life or death, blessing or curse, heaven or hell. We must exercise this free will wisely and choose life and blessing.

1 John 2:2 AMP says "And He [that same Jesus Himself] is the propitiation (the atoning sacrifice) for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for [the sins of the whole world]" Jesus died for the whole world, including those who don't know him yet. The reason some are saved is because they made a choice to get into God's Will and not to perish but to receive eternal life.

#### Does God arbitrarily choose when people should die?

Hebrews 9:27 NIV says "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" Destined simply means eventually. All human beings have a birth date and time; likewise, every human being will have a death date and time. If you're a human being, your birth and your death are unavoidable facts of life. Here are some scriptures that show that our own choices and actions can either multiply our days, increase our years, and prolong our lives, or shorten our lifespan and ruin our lives:

Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

Proverbs 3: 1-2 NLT: "My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying"

Proverbs 9:10 - 12 NLT: "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment. Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer"

Proverbs 10:27 NASB: "The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened"

Proverbs 19:23 GNT: "Obey the Lord and you will live a long life, content and safe from harm"

Psalms 55:23 NASB "Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days"

Proverbs 19:3 GNT: "Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid actions and then blame the Lord" Beloved, let us allow the Holy Spirit to help us make decisions and direct our every step. Let us commit to making Word-based choices that produce life.

With love,

*Pastors Tafara & Chipso Butayi*

★ LOVERS ★

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