

SSP

The Church of Jesus Christ



The Most Important Choice

Don't get bogged down in the details of life's choices.
Trust God with the specifics

Selecting a career path is no small choice. How should you handle life's big decisions?

By Bro. Jordan Champine

Occupation. It's a simple enough word. A harmless noun that describes what one does to make a living, and certainly not a word that is known for striking paralyzing fear into the hearts of those who hear it. But for me there was a time when it did.

Maybe you can relate.

Starting my first year of college, I wasn't burdened with the usual social anxieties that accompany such a change. No, it all paled in the shadow of this dreadful word: occupation. How could I know what I would want to do with the rest of my life or what career I

should pursue? A kindergartener proclaiming he wants to be a fireman when he grows up has more self-assurance than I did.

Fretting on the Fence

Why was this so difficult for me? Why was everyone else so sure? All of my friends seemed to hone in on their fields of choice long before high school was over. Sure, I played along, trying to convince myself that I was just taking my time, considering this or that. But the reality was quietly setting in that I just flat out did not know.

I felt as if I was dangling from a cliff with one life-or-death choice to make. A slight exaggeration for sure, but for those who have been or are in this position, it can be a monumental burden to carry.

You see, I thought I didn't know how to make a decision that carried so much weight, but I was wrong. I had already made life's most important decision when I chose to serve God as a baptized member of the beautiful Restored Gospel. God helped me make that decision, and I knew He would help me again.

Gimme the Blueprints

I had a job, but was unhappy and was overwhelmed with the cares that life brings. I thought I should perhaps use my schooling to pursue another career. So I turned to God for direction. I wanted the Lord to tell me what do with

the rest of my life, concerning work and school. I wanted him to give me the blueprints to my life.

And He did.

Unexpected Answer

One day, while spending time in prayer, the Lord spoke to me three times saying, "If you keep my commandments, you will prosper in the land." It was, to say the least, an amazing statement to consider.

Isaiah 55:8-9 reads, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* Such was the case with God's words to me. This was not at all the response I expected from God, but when I finally understood what He was saying, it changed my point of view forever.

Here I was, so hung up on the logistics and specifics of my choices. I was stuck on which classes to take or what job to seek. But God has a way of making our choices simple and clarifying what's really important. This mountainous burden came crashing down as God allowed me to see things through His eyes. That day I learned more about God's promise in Matt. 6:33: I need only to serve Him, seek His will, His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things would be added unto me.

Make Serving Him Your Goal

Friends, sometimes in life we can become overwhelmed with our options and choices, but don't forget God's promise. He is in control. Trust Him and focus on serving Him, doing all you do for Him, going where you go with Him. God didn't give me the blueprints to my life that day. He didn't share the exact details I was seeking. But He gave me something much better, something higher — an

understanding that if I serve Him, He will take care of me and the details of my life. This is what I offer to you.

Take comfort in knowing God has a plan and that life's greatest choice is to serve God. Set your heart upon God and leave the ebb and flow of life to His design. Seek success, but only for God's glory, and let it come by way of His hand. Those who do can walk with purpose and peace each day. Keep His commandments, and He will bless you.

Testimony of Truth

It has been quite a few years since that experience, and I can boldly testify that God has never let me down. He has provided for me and my family more than I could ever express. Yet, notwithstanding all He has done, I find greater joy in knowing that while the treasures of this life are fleeting, the treasures I have laid up in heaven are everlasting. I know and pray all the more He will do the same for you.

"For the Lord God hath said, "Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land..." 2 Nephi 4:4.

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The number of times the phrase "Keep my commandments and you'll prosper in the land" appears in the Book of Mormon.

There are also scriptures in the Bible that mirror this famous verse. Here's one:

Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalm 37:3

Yes, Choices Matter



Are we saying that your decisions don't really matter? No way. But your decision to serve God and please Him is of greater importance than any other decision in your life. It's not a one-time choice but an ongoing mindset that should affect all your other choices. Don't obsess over finding the "perfect" solution, but strive to do what pleases and honors God.