

## Getting What We Want

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We live in a materialistic world.

It seems that our culture rings replete with the cry of “getting what we want at any cost,” especially if that which we want is defined by “things.” We see bumper stickers on cars and trucks that proclaim “He who dies with the most toys wins.” As a counter to this materialistic philosophy, Christians should proclaim the Bible admonition of “Not my will, but *Yours* be done.” No truer words were ever spoken, but there is a sense in which it is true that we always “get what we want.”

As we consider ways to pass the faith to the next generation, we might begin by instilling the following truth: **Life is a series of choices.** Some choices are major - as when Joshua proclaimed, “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). His choice was between life with God or life with idols. Sometimes choices seem relatively small - such as when the Apostle Paul admonishes us to make in “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another...” (Hebrews 10:25a). This choice may involve only a couple hours of our time, but is a choice just the same. The Apostle Paul was famous for writing down many lists given to him by the Holy Spirit, as evidenced by Galatians 5:19-23. Peter states “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,” (2 Peter 1:3).

God’s lists of choices, as told to us in the New Testament, are complete both in principle and context. As we study the Bible, we soon realize that there are consequences that are attached to choices we make. We, therefore, can make informed and wise choices through the study of those choices and their resulting consequences. There are choices that are deadly, both in a physical and spiritual nature, and there are choices that are rewarding, God-pleasing, full of joy and provide the best of life. It therefore behooves us to align our choices with those good choices defined in the scriptures. As we grow as a Christian, we actually “want” those choices that are good, which supplants those choices that have dire consequences. Our aim in life should be to want those choices that “pertain to life and Godliness.” **Our lives can become a constant “getting what we want” as our wants become transformed into God’s offering of choice.**

If the truth is really told, we always “get what we want.” If our life is the sum total of the choices we have made, then we have exactly what we have wanted (because we chose the path). **If the life we lead is not what we know we *should* want, then we need to change our choices.** It’s insanity to “continue doing what you’ve always done and expect different results!” Substituting the words under consideration we see that if we “want to

get the same consequences we've always gotten, keep making the same choices we've always made.”

You might say it is ludicrous to think that some of the bad things that happen to people are things they “want”...but is it? You see, when we make a choice, the consequences of that choice will appear, whether we consider the consequence or not. If I want to steal something, I may not think of the jail time I may spend because of that choice, but it is always there. I got what I wanted, plus some. If I am overweight and in ill health because of that condition, did I want that? If I made the choice to abuse my health through overeating and inactivity, then how can I say I didn't get what I wanted? If I forsake the assembly of the saints by choosing to do something else, did I “want” to grow weak in my faith?

It's time we begin looking at life as a series of choices; it will change the lives we live.