

Life or Death 2

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CHOOSE LIFE OR DEATH

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - ¹⁹ 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**; ²⁰ 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**. *NKJV*

CLING TO HIM

Living in the **manifest presence of God**.

John 14:21 - He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and **manifest Myself to him**. *NKJV*

We don't CLING TO HIM because we doubt His **goodness**.

Where we doubt the **goodness of God**, we are hardened and not porous to His manifest presence.

The enemy wants us to draw back from the **presence of God** in our lives.

The children of Israel desired to go back to Egypt or slavery. They wanted the "predictability of slavery" over the uncertainty of "freedom." One is running toward DEATH and the other toward LIFE.

We are empowered by God in His presence.

JESUS AND THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER

Hebrews 5:7 - In the days of His flesh [Jesus] offered up definite, special petitions and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was [always] able to save Him

[out] from death, and He was heard because of His **reverence toward God** [His godly fear, His piety, in that He **shrank from the horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father.** *AMP*

- The horror of being separated from the presence of God was what Jesus agonized about in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus cried out on the cross not because of the pain, humiliation, bearing the sin of the world, but because our sin caused Him to be SEPARATED FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD.
- When He cried out on the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken or left me?”

Hebrews 12:9 - Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in **subjection to the Father** of spirits and **live?** *NKJV*

- The outcome of being in subjection to God is LIFE!
- CHOOSE LIFE that both you and children may live!

SAMSON

- An angel appears to Samson’s mother—she was sterile.
- He will “begin the deliverance” from the Philistines.
- He must be a “Nazarite” from birth.
- Abstain from all alcohol
- Do not cut hair
- Cannot be even near a dead body
- If accidentally by a dead body – shave head
- Shaving head = repentance and restoration
 - One you control via repentance—shave
 - The other happens via sowing and reaping

SAMSON’S LIFE

The Spirit of God comes upon him and he kills a lion, like shredding a piece of paper.

- He eats honey out of the carcass of the lion and doesn’t shave his head.
- Samson tried to draw LIFE out of DEATH.

Judges 16:20-21 – ²⁰ Then Delilah called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." **But he did not know that the LORD had left him.** ²¹ Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding in the prison. ²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved. *NIV*

- Put to sleep by the darkness of the culture
- Didn’t know the Presence of God had left him

- His hair grew back and he defeated more in his death than in his life.

MOSES

Exodus 33:3,14-16 - ¹⁴ Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. **But I will not go with you.** ¹⁵ Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" **NIV**

- Moses desired the **presence of God** more than he desired the **blessings of God**.
- He already walked away from a **life of abundance** to a life of **greater value** in the **presence of God**.

Hebrews 11:24-26 - ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. **NIV**

The drug addict, sex addict, seeker of wealth, self-righteous, and the proud are all seeking the same thing...THE PRESENCE OF GOD!

Psalm 16:11 - You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with **joy in your presence**, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. **NIV**