

## Man's Power To Choose

God has made us with free will to choose either sin or righteousness

## Introduction

- Rather than creating man like a passive robot, God created us as free moral agents, giving us the ability to choose right or wrong in the spiritual world
- God has given us the ability to process information, consider facts and possible consequences and freely choose a course of action
- We recognize this freedom of choice in our normal daily activities

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## Introduction

- The most important choices we make are in the spiritual realm because they have eternal consequences on our soul
- Sadly, much false teaching denies that we have been given the power to choose in the spiritual realm
- Let us contrast these with the plain teaching of Scriptures in four areas where we have the power to choose sin or righteousness

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## We Can Choose To Sin Against God

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness.

Jas 4:17 Therefore, to one who knows *the* right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

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## We Can Choose To Sin Against God

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,  
Rom 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

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## We Can Choose To Sin Against God

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

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## We Can Choose To Sin Against God

Rom 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

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## We Can Choose To Sin Against God

2Pe 2:14 having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;

1Ti 4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Jos 24:14 "Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Jos 24:15 "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--this Jesus whom you crucified."

Act 2:37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Act 16:29 And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas,

Act 16:30 and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Act 16:31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Act 16:32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

Act 16:33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*.

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## We Can Choose To Be Saved

Act 16:34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Gal 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

Gal 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

2Pe 2:18 For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error,

2Pe 2:19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

2Pe 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

2Pe 2:21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them.

2Pe 2:22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire."

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Heb 6:4 For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

Heb 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

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## We Can Choose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Heb 6:6 and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

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## We Can Choose To Be Restored Back To The Lord

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

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## We Can Choose To Be Restored Back To The Lord

Jas 5:19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

Jas 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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## Simon Had Chosen To Sin Against God

Act 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;  
Act 8:10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."

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## Simon Chose To Be Saved

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.  
Act 8:13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

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## Simon Chose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Act 8:17 Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.  
Act 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

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## Simon Chose To Be Lost After Being Saved

Act 8:19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."  
Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!  
Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

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## Simon Chose To Be Restored Back To The Lord

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.  
Act 8:23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."  
Act 8:24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

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## What Choice Will We Make Today?

1. We can choose to sin against God
2. We can choose to be saved
3. We can choose to be lost after being saved
4. We can choose to be restored back to the Lord

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