

Challenged by Life...Powered by God

(Case Studies in Christian Challenges)

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This monthly series of case studies illustrate the challenges presented to us as Christians. Facing these common challenges is inevitable. How we respond to those challenges is what defines us as human beings and whether others observe and mimic or take notice and mock. It should be our desire as Christians to serve as that coveted example worth mimicking 100% of the time. See if this case study has presented similar decision points and challenges in your life. I would love to hear your reactions, thoughts and alternative approaches in the comments section below.

The Case of God's Plan vs. Your Plan

There is an old adage that states, "if you want to make God laugh, tell him what your plan is!" God has a distinct plan for us but we also have the gift of free will. So how do we make our decisions? Do we make our decisions and then pray for them to come true or do we ask God for his plan for us and make our decisions from there? This is a very important distinction.

The Decision Fork in the Road

We have to make decisions every day of our life. How many of our days do we begin by simply asking God for advice on what his will is in our lives that particular day? Admittedly, with me it is often praying that what I plan to do will result in a positive outcome. Let's use the analogy of going down a hallway in a building and you come to the fork in the path that requires a decision to be made. If we know that God would prefer us to go left and we do so, he is right there with us. If we go right instead, God is still right there with us because we have the gift of free will, but the outcome may not be what we desire. It is the simple difference between God's plans for us vs. our own plan.

How Do We Thrive Through Our Decision Making?

It is really simple. Just put God first. Pray that his will for us will be evident and that we will drive our decision making around his plan for us. I am all for making God laugh, but not at the expense of making poor decisions that ultimately cost me time, money, satisfaction, happiness or any other emotion that will drag me down. When we get in sync with God, our lives are simply easier. The sooner this happens and the more alignment we have with the plan that God has for us, the more satisfying our lives will be.

Enjoy the Ride

It is comforting to know that God is on our side and has a plan for us. Rather than struggle with our independent decision making and hope that it aligns with what God has in store for us, doesn't it make sense to ask for a daily consult through prayer? How many times have you tried so hard to make something happen and it doesn't work out. Then at a later date you realize how fortunate you are that what you were trying to accomplish did not happen. Why don't we just cut to the end point and eliminate time, stress and frustration as we enjoy being aligned with our heavenly father?

What are your thoughts?