

## DISCERNING GOD'S CHOICE POINTS

*"Therefore, dear friends,  
since you have been forewarned,  
Be on your guard  
so that you may not be carried away  
by the error of the lawless  
and fall from your secure positions."  
2 Peter 3:17*

### **What is a "Choice Point"?**

A "Choice Point" is a critical juncture, a life-altering, direction-changing decision point. It is invariably a test of our moral character and our moral spine. Which choice we make decides the trajectory of a significant time or area of our life. A man I know was shown how one fateful decision he made when he was 30 has deleteriously affected the 20 years since.

Making the right choice, choosing the right way to go, requires discernment along with the moral courage and desire to do only God's Will. ***We pray for that discernment, moral backbone and integrity.***

## **Prayer Petitions to Discern God's Choice Points**

### ***Do Only What Our Father Wants***

◆ Dear Heavenly Father, your Son Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, only did your Will. He modeled living as Divine Will, that we may follow suit. Tho He was presented with difficult choice points, He always passed his tests: 40 days and tested three times in the desert with satan, facing his destiny with anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane. This tells me that if I am truly committed to doing ONLY your Divine Will, I shall pass all of my tests, I shall make the right choice at every choice point in my life, and You will provide me the strength, resources and supports to make the right choice.

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- ◆ I proclaim as Jesus did in John 14:31, that I shall *“do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.”* For indeed Jesus taught in John 14:15, *“If you love me, you will obey my commandments.”*
- ◆ Father God, I repent for the spirit of rebelliousness and other spirits that have caused me to not do your Will, but my own, or the will of another who unduly influenced or influences me. For your Word in Hosea 14:9 says: *“Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.”*

### ***Living God's Will Gives Strength to Choose Rightly***

- ◆ Lord God, your Son Yeshua, Jesus the Christ, demonstrated that the strength and ability to do difficult things come from You. This is a deeper understanding of and possession of Faith — to choose the tough road, the hard choices, with faith that You will work things out, that You will see me through it. I repent for all the times and ways I have not done this, have not truly trusted in You to make a way with more difficult choices. God forgive me.
- ◆ As Jesus proclaimed in John 5:30, *“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.”* Jesus did all of his works as the Son of Man to demonstrate that we can possess his same depth and breadth of faith; in this way, I can do nothing on my own, yet through You, I do all things. *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,”* according Philippians 4:13.
- ◆ Even if I do not have confidence in my own clarity or ability to make the highest, best decisions, your Word provides me the solution in James 1:5, *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”*

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### ***The Joshua Deception***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, we learn a hard lesson from your great warrior Joshua, who had impeccable obedience to your commands. He was deceived into entering into a covenant with wicked people, which was not your will.
- ◆ God forgive me for making these same kinds of mistakes. Barreling ahead on something, an agreement, a business dealing, a partnering arrangement, without checking in to make sure it was truly from You, was truly an answer to my prayers that came from You, that was actually your Will.
- ◆ Truly, 2 Corinthians 5:10 forewarns: *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”* Sometimes evil is not a great overt act of wickedness, but a pattern and character of taking the wrong turns, making the wrong choices, not discerning or heeding your voice; and thereby opposing your Will. God, forgive me.

### ***I Cry Out for Discernment***

- ◆ Heavenly Father, give me greater, better, deeper spiritual discernment, as Proverbs 2:3-5 promises: *“For if I cry for discernment, lift my voice for understanding; if I seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then I will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.”*
- ◆ I petition Psalm 119:66-67, *“Teach me good judgement and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. Before I was humbled I went astray, but now I keep your word.”* Lord God, I commit more deeply every day in every way, to keep Your Word; to check in for your revelation for every situation and decision, every choice point.
- ◆ I say to You Heavenly Father from Psalm 119:125 that, *“I am your servant, give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to having my powers of discernment constantly trained and I ask for the Holy Spirit to guide me and keep me on track, as Hebrews 5:14 says: *“But solid food is for the mature, for those who*

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*have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”*

### **Loyalty & Courage**

- ◆ Heavenly Father, Apostle Peter was presented three choice points to stand for and with Jesus Christ the night before He was betrayed. Yet he chose safety and cowardice. God forgive me for any and all times I have done the same; whether in betrayal of You or a loved one.
- ◆ Lord God, I rely on your Holy Spirit to build me up in the most holy of faith, loyalty and courage as I proclaim 1 John 3:24, *“The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.”*

### **King Saul's Folly**

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I understand through your Word that your choice points may also come in the form of an instruction, a detailed directive to carry out your Will. I repent for all the times and ways I was only partially obedient, for a variety of reasons, such as fear, laziness, fear of what others would think or say, personal comfort or rebelliousness. It is not possible for my flesh mind to conceive ahead of time all the reasons and purposes to your instructions and Will. God forgive me.
- ◆ You presented King Saul a choice point in the form of a command in 1 Samuel 15:1-3: *“Samuel also said to Saul, ‘The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”*
- ◆ Yet King Saul choked; he did not carry out the entirety of your command, as we see in Samuel 15:8 & 9, *“He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the*

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*sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them.*” Saul talked himself into believing in his own cleverness. Would that he had heeded Proverbs 12:15, *“Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.”*

- ◆ We now know that the villain Haman was an Amalekite descendant; the very villain that tricked King Xerxes into making a decree to wipe out all the Jews. Actions have consequences. Wrong decisions and flawed discernment at choice points have grave consequences that go far beyond my own life and destiny. Lord God, put in me a steel spine, fortitude, courage, selflessness, to always fulfill your directives completely to your purposes and Will.

### ***Choice Points Contain Your Will***

- ◆ Heavenly Father Abba, it is clear that choice points in my life always contain an option that is your Will. It is my responsibility to seek out, discern and carry out THAT option, THAT choice, that is YOUR Will; not my will, not my spouse's will or child's will or friend's will, not the world's will. All choices have consequences. I commit to always seeking out and discerning YOUR Will in every circumstance, in every crossroads and choice point where there are options as to how to move forward, what to do, where, with whom, how and when.
- ◆ Indeed, Romans 12:2 advises: *“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

### ***Choice Points Maintain Respect for YOU***

- ◆ Lord God, the fickle human heart and unsteady human mind blur discernment and compromise fidelity. But David demonstrated that having true love for You enables me to maintain respect for your anointed ones, in spite of disagreements and strife. Tho he was hunted down by King Saul (Your anointed) for years, David maintained his respect for You by respecting King Saul.

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- ◆ In 1 Samuel 24:6, King David *“said to his men, ‘The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.’”* David spoke to King Saul in 1 Samuel 24:10, *“This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’”*
- ◆ Lord God, I repent for all the times and ways I chose my own ego, my pridefulness and vanity, engaged in strife with someone who You chose to be in my life for certain purposes.
- ◆ 1 Samuel 26:9-11 teaches me that your anointed can go astray but it is up to You to bring judgment and justice upon them: *“But David said to Abishai, ‘Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the LORD lives,’ he said, ‘the LORD himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the LORD forbid that I should lay a hand on the LORD’s anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let’s go.’”*
- ◆ From this story I understand that a choice point decision may require me to do nothing when I want to do something. That the right and righteous choice in the choice point may be to possess restraint and discipline, and allow YOU to enter in to dispense justice.

### ***Humility Cultivates Discernment***

- ◆ Dear Father God, this discipline at choice points also calls for humility, so that I am not seeking my own vengeance, my own sense of justice; but submit to YOUR justice. I commit to cultivating deeper humility and ask for your help in doing so.
- ◆ For Romans 12:16-19 exhorts me: *“Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the*

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*wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'*"

### ***Trust in You Deepens Discernment***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, time and again I must learn and remember that I cannot and should not trust in my own understanding, my own cleverness, my own worldview. This is a trap. The adversary can always find a way in through a sliver in my ego. My discernment comes from deepening my trust in You.
- ◆ For Proverbs 3:5-8 instructs me: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. It will be a healing for your flesh and a refreshment for your body."*
- ◆ Proverbs 3:21-24 underscores this: *"My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet."*

### ***Choice Points are Tests***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I've learned the hard way that there are constantly tests in life and nothing is set in stone, even my salvation; until I draw my last breath.
- ◆ 2 Peter 3:17 warns me: *"Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position."* I commit to being *"wise as a serpent, gentle as a dove"*, to discern tests and make the right and righteous choices.

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### ***A Nation's Discernment***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Proverbs 11:14 makes clear that a nation's destiny rises or falls based on the discernment of its leaders: *"For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers."*
- ◆ Therefore Lord God, we pray for your servants in governance and those running for office, that You will *give your servants therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that they may discern between good and evil*, according to 1 Kings 3:9.

### ***The Holy Spirit Brings Discernment***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, the Spirit of Truth leads us into ALL truth. For truly John 16:13 instructs me: *"But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father—the message regarding the Son], and He will disclose to you what is to come."*
- ◆ Come Holy Spirit, come, and *fill me with the knowledge of God the Father's Will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*, according to Colossians 1:9.
- ◆ Help me Lord God, to *be wise as a serpent and innocent as a dove*, according to Matthew 10:16. That I am strong in discerning truth and making the right choices at every choice point, yet maintaining a purity, goodness, gentleness, humility of heart in the process.
- ◆ And finally, *this is my prayer*, from Philippians 1:9-11, *that my love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help me to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ I may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God. Amen!*
- ◆ Lord God, I ask You for the opportunity to right my wrongs, repair my mistakes and redeem my errors.



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### 3. Thanks and Gratitude.

- ◆ Thank you Heavenly Father for receiving my petitions to cultivate greater, better, keener discernment of your choice points in my life and to make only the right choices in all my future choice points.
- ◆ To You alone be all the glory in Heaven and Earth forever and ever! Amen!

### SEALING PRAYER

#### ***We Have the Mind of Christ***

*These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit;  
for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

*For what human being knows what is truly human  
except the human spirit that is within?*

*So also no one comprehends what is truly God's  
except the Spirit of God.*

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world,  
but the Spirit that is from God,  
so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.*

*And we speak of these things in words  
not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit,  
interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.*

*Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit,  
for they are foolishness to them,  
and they are unable to understand them  
because they are discerned spiritually.*

*Those who are spiritual discern all things,  
and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.*

*'For who has known the mind of the Lord  
so as to instruct him?'*

*But we have the mind of Christ.*

*Amen.*

*1 Corinthians 2:10-16*