



United Pentecostal Church Intl April 2022



A Defining Moment

By Rebecca Johnson



Decisions. So many. So hard. They can make or break a person depending on the decision.

We all are on the verge of a defining moment by one choice- our final decision.

When I was a young lady, I desired to pursue international travel by working for an airline company in Houston, Texas. I wanted to get away from my tough home life and enjoy the chance to better myself and be on my own. I was young and vulnerable.

My mom told me some wise words: *One choice can determine your future. It can be challenging or accessible by one decision.*

I will never forget the feelings I had in Houston. I was alone, scared, and only eighteen. I called a church there and asked if someone could pick me to attend church. I was terrified to drive in Houston. Back then, there was no GPS or cell phone, only a paper map.

Sister Annette and her husband came to pick me up. They had worked all day long but took the time for this. On our way to and from service, she asked, "What is the plan for your future?" I couldn't fully answer because I was trying to get away from my home life. I hadn't asked God that question.

After a few trips to church with them, God began to speak to my heart. I always loved the Lord, but something new was birthing in my heart. I remember specifically the moment I asked God for direction. I began listening to Sister Annette's advice and was open to what she was pouring into me. God put her in my life to give me hope.

I felt like Ruth in the Bible deciding whether to follow God's ways or follow the path that seemed accessible at the moment. I had a plan and dreams that I wanted. I was torn and had a decision to make.

"What is your desire for me?" I asked the Lord. He began to speak to me for the first time. I began to feel unsettled and knew I was out of the will of God. He had allowed me to go to Houston to learn to hear His voice. When I decided to go home, even though it was a bad situation, I felt the peace of God. In that defining moment, I learned to know God's way of speaking to me. It was the peace and comfort of the purest air I could breathe and a settled feeling that I did not want to go away. God gave me a new map to follow that day. I was developing a personal walk with God in prayer.

Had Ruth not followed that perfect peace on the road with Naomi, she would never have found God's will for her life. She would not have met Boaz or become the great-grandmother of King David. It came through one choice. By faith, she left everything she knew to follow God's will. She must have felt perfect peace in her decision.

"And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." (Ruth 1:16)

Had I not listened to that peace, I would have never met my husband, been in ministry, or become a pastor's wife. We have had several transitional moments in our lives, and we have followed that peace for the will of God in our lives and ministry. There is power in your prayers. That is where decisions and defining choices are made that map out the will of God in your life and situations.

Note: Rebecca Johnson, affectionally known as "Becca", serves alongside her husband Matthew, as Senior Pastor at The Sanctuary in Columbus, IN. She is the proud mom of two children, Abriah and Jace, and also two adorable Goldendoodles; Ginger Lou & Opie Taylor. Becca's motto is: Be comfortable in your own skin. Use the giftings God has given you to bless the Kingdom of God!

Your Will, Your Way

By Anonymous

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV)

Before becoming a mother, I found this scripture easy to apply to my life. However, I quickly learned that trusting God with your own children was much more challenging.

A health complication was discovered when our first child was born. We were serving overseas with no family to help us, during a pandemic lockdown, and without the medical resources required to diagnose the issue. I began to ask God "Why? I have been faithful. I have sacrificed for You. I came to this country for You!"

When you follow the will of God, sometimes it will lead you to places you do not expect to be. God's will be not the easy path. Joseph had dreams of prestige but traveled a painful road before they were fulfilled. Yet, in Genesis 45:8, he claims that God directed that path, not his brothers who originally sold him into slavery.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8-9 NKJV.)

Through this journey, I had to learn to tell God "Your will, Your way." I wanted my child healed. I had to leave that request at the feet of Jesus and trust that His answer was perfect. After returning home, we were able to see specialists and have testing done. Our questions were answered, and our son would have surgery. Through this process, we saw the hand of God at work. Many prayers were answered that we did not even know to pray. My faith was strengthened. My reliance on God grew. I learned what it felt to trust when God said, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"* (II Corinthians 12:8 NKJV).

This experience was not my will or my way. However, God was directing our path. No matter where His will takes you, you can trust Him. You can know that He has a plan and purpose for you. Ask God to teach you along the journey you are on. Allow your faith to grow and your relationship with God to deepen. God may be using your path as a tool to minister to others in the future, as Joseph would provide for his brothers during a famine. I invite you to remember these things as you follow the will of God and tell Him "Your will, Your way."

Note: E (who remains anonymous for safety reasons) first experienced overseas ministry in 2013. She has since married and started a family that now serves as global missionaries.

From the Editor



God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in:
English, Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Czech, Dutch, Fijian, Filipino,
French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish,
Sri Lankan, Swahili, Swedish, and Thai.

Please help us pray for more translators!

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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38). [Text L](#)