

Dear Friend,

I recently went on an outing with my father in law, several of my nephews and one of my nieces. We took a Friday night and rode horses at Red Rock. The view there was amazing. It is not often that we are able to get together with our extended family, so this was rare and a real treat for me. None of their parents were there and Lori had a prior engagement. Each of my nieces and nephews have different personalities that can get them into a lot of trouble when they are together. It was unique in the fact that I was able to get some one on one time with them.

After the ride we sat around a camp fire, roasted marshmallows, and talked. At that moment it hit me; the choices you make truly impact more lives than you will ever know. I never dreamed when we came to Las Vegas to plant a church that I would ever minister to my own family. Now there are seven nieces and nephews running around the Oasis campus on a daily basis, not to mention their parents. I became overwhelmed with joy in the fact that God was allowing me to have a little part in their lives.

Then the next thing that came to my mind was what if I did not follow God and trust in Him in the choices He would lead me to make? I can tell you now, it is a great benefit to reap the blessings of right choices on a night such as this one.

As I was making those decisions it was scary, hard, and at times confusing. I want to give you a couple of guidelines on choice-making that helped bring me to a night like this.

1. Choose God (no matter how bleak the outcome looks, always make God your choice.)
2. Choose principles over emotion (We often allow our emotion to dictate our direction when it should be principles.)
3. Choose eternally instead of presently (We are often faced to make choices that can give us short term success but long term hurt.)
4. Choose the influence in your life carefully (I cannot tell you the countless people who told me I was crazy for moving to Las Vegas and planting a church- some of them very close people to me. I chose not to let them influence me.)

As we are about to enter into the fall season many choices will be placed in front of you. I want to encourage you to choose what is best, over what is good.

I look forward to seeing you at some of the events coming up at Oasis. Fall is a great time to get involved. Below are a few events that I would like to highlight:

- * October 14-15: Family Life Concert and Conference
- * October 31: Harvest Festival on the Church Campus
- * November 7: Round Up Sunday

Make plans now to be here! If there is anything I can help you, with please call or email.
See you Sunday!

Pastor
Mark Neal

