

DECISIONS THAT DETERMINE DESTINY

I believe that this is one of the most important messages the Lord has ever given me. We read in Mark 5.21-43 an account of two people that needed something from Jesus. These two accounts are quite separate from each other, yet they are connected. We will see from the lives of these two people that the results they got were determined by a decision they made earlier. Our decisions determine our destiny.

Decision

Before we can make a decision we need to know our destination. We don't decide to get on a bus unless we have already determined our destination. Before we ever make the decision to get on the bus we have determined to go shopping, or to do some other task. Then we get on the bus and tell the driver where we want to go.

The choices we make today affect what will happen to us tomorrow. Earlier in the year our daughter Debbie had to make some choices about her studies for the next school year. She had to choose which subjects she would like to study to GCSE. The choices she makes today will determine how her school studies are mapped out for the next two years. If she is looking at studying History, she needs to make that choice. If the History qualification is her destination, she needs to make that decision now in order to fulfill her destiny. She will not be able to say 'Why didn't I pass my History' if she chose to do a completely different subject.

If a farmer wants to grow a crop of potatoes in a field, he won't get potatoes if he sows cabbage. If a potato harvest is his destination, then he makes the right decisions, to sow potatoes, earlier in the year. **You are today what yesterdays decisions made you.**

Let us take a look at the decisions that these two people made in our reading.

Jairus had decided that if Jesus would just come to his house and lay hands on his daughter she would be made well and live.

"And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live" (Mark 5.23)

He was ruler of the synagogue, He believed in a God who was their healer, He had made his decision - If this Jesus, who he had heard about, would just lay his hands on his daughter she will be made better.

The woman had also made a decision which would later affect her destiny - she had decided that in order to get her healing all she needed to do was just touch the hem of Jesus' garment

"For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole" (Mark 5.28)

They knew their destinations and they made faith decisions. A faith decision moves God into action. We read in verse 24 that Jesus went with Jairus, Jesus responded to the call of faith. In verse 30 we read that the woman's faith drew on the power of God in Jesus and he TURNED at the call of faith. **God does not respond to need, He responds to faith.** If God responded to need, we wouldn't see all the pictures of need and suffering from Africa and Asia. God will meet and supply our needs, but needs do not move Him to action - faith does. God always responds to a decision made in faith. Jairus called in faith and Jesus went with him, the woman touched Jesus in faith, and He turned toward her. If you want Jesus to turn your way, call to him in faith.

Determined

Once we have made our faith decision we must be determined to stick with it

and follow it through to completion. **When the going gets tough - the tough stick with it.** If Debbie wants to get her History GCSE, she must stick with the studies, complete the homework, finish the course, and take the final examination. It will take a lot of hard work but if she sticks with it she will reap the results.

A lack of determination is the reason why so many people have already given up on the New Years resolutions they made. It is sad that so many people don't receive what they want from God because they give up right at the moment of their miracle, healing or breakthrough. If they had just stuck with it a moment longer they would have arrived at their destination. You have not arrived at your destination if you get off the bus a few stops early, stay on the bus and it will take you to where you want to go.

I really felt for Paula Radcliffe last year as she was running those long distance races and pulled up and dropped out of the races. It doesn't matter what her reasons were, she didn't finish the race and was not crowned. Roger Bannister, the athlete who first broke the 4 minute mile, once said "*when you're running a race the only thing on your mind is the finishing line*". Determination will take you across the finishing line to receive the prize.

Ffiona Campbell on her walk across Africa was so determined to finish what she set out to do, that she returned to Africa twice after being evacuated and picked up the walk where she had left it, even though it meant crossing war-torn countries and through volatile situations. On the 1st September 1993 she completed her walk and finished the task.

In her attempt to complete the Vendee Globe, the world's toughest yacht race, Ellen MacArthur battled on through storms, icy seas, exhaustion, rigging

failures and a collision with a submerged object that could have cost her not just the race but her life. Even though she was exhausted, battered black and blue, and all alone in the middle of the southern oceans, these things did not deter her from her aim of finishing the race. On 11th February 2001, at just 24 years of age, she sailed into port as the fastest woman to circumnavigate the globe.

When the news came from Jairus's house that the situation had suddenly got worse and his daughter had died, Jesus told him to stick with it.

"While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe" Mark 5.35-36

When the woman arrived at where Jesus was, she saw a great crowd thronging him. Because she was determined to get to her destination she was not put off by the obstacles or by anyone else, she pushed her way through the crowd and came to Jesus.

"When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment" Mark 5.27

There were others in the Bible who were so determined to get their miracle that they overcame all the obstacles, situations and circumstances that they were faced with.

The four friends of the paralysed man broke through the roof of the house when they saw the crowds around the door, so that they could get their friend to Jesus. He was healed and forgiven of his sins.

Bartimaeus called out to Jesus even louder when he was told to be quiet by those around him. Jesus called him and restored his sight.

Determination overcomes everything to get to the destination. Jesus promised victory to those who overcome. In Revelation 2 & 3 there are seven promises to overcomers.

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God" Revelation 2.7

"He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death" Revelation 2.11

"To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone,

and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it" Revelation 2.17

"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations" Revelation 2.26

"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels" Revelation 3.5

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" Revelation 3.12

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" Revelation 3.21

Determination drives your decision to its destination and does whatever is necessary. Those who overcome receive the results.

Dispel

Although determination drives your decision toward your destination, in order to arrive, you need to dispel all doubt and unbelief from your heart.

The woman in our reading dispelled all her doubts and fears.

"But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth" Mark 5.33

Why did this woman fear? She had been miraculously healed of her affliction. You would have thought that she should want to shout it from the rooftops. Lets take a closer look at her situation.

She had suffered from a haemorrhage for 12 years and was getting worse. According to the Law she was considered unclean and had to follow certain guidelines. She was not allowed to come into contact with anyone or touch anything, until such time as she was pronounced clean by the priest. She had broken the law that day - she had come into a large crowd of people, pushing through them to get to Jesus and had touched Jesus' garment. When she eventually got through to Jesus she noticed that He was standing next to the ruler of the synagogue, and he had the authority to have her arrested and/or sentence to death.

Jairus had to face and overcome his own fears. When the report came from the house, he could have listened to it and given up all hope. Yet I am sure that what had just happened with the woman would have encouraged him to believe. He could have blamed the woman for delaying Jesus, yet he chose to listen to the words of Jesus.

"As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, 'Be not afraid, only believe'" Mark 5.36

From that moment on Jesus only permitted those who would believe to follow them to the house. Upon arriving at the house, He dispelled all doubt and unbelief from the place and went into the room where the young girl was.

Make no room for doubt, fear or unbelief. Put it out of your life. Faith in God will bring your decision to its destination.

Destination

Those who make a quality faith decision, are determined to stick with it no matter what, and who dispel all doubt, fear and unbelief, will arrive at their destination.

I remember that as a child, whenever we were going on a long journey to the beach, we would continually ask Dad if we were there yet. It must have driven him mad, but there came a time when the waiting was over and we turned a corner and saw the sea. We had arrived at the destination. The journey may have been long, even uncomfortable at times, but now the waiting was over. There comes a time when the waiting is over and you arrive at your destination, your faith is rewarded and you receive your breakthrough, your victory, the answer to your need.

Jairus arrived at his destination, he received his daughter alive and well.

The woman arrived at her destination, she was made completely whole (lacking nothing), the discharge of blood was dried up and I believe she was 'saved' and prospered. Had full restoration of all that she had spent on physicians. Her decision was to be made whole, not just well. If something is whole it is complete with nothing missing. Will you dare to believe God for something so tremendous - then make that decision to change your future today. Make it a quality decision that will bring you to where you want to be. Your decisions determine your destiny. ♥

God will meet and supply our needs, but needs do not move Him to action
- faith does. God always responds to a decision made in faith

The Pen Is Mightier than The Sword



Young men help unload the container as it arrives in Tamale, Ghana

There are so many things that influence us nowadays. The advertising agencies are so busy creating new ways to tempt us with their products, trying to sell us the latest 'gotta have' gadget. Their marketing is aimed at saving us time, making our workload easier, changing the way we live and enhancing the quality of our lives.

Back in February I was at the International Gospel Outreach (IGO) Missions Weekend held at Northallerton, exhibiting with a stand for Book Aid. While I was there something caught my eye. In the missions exhibition area on one of the exhibitors stands was this giant poster which read 'Books Change Lives'. That is true and especially so in the world of Christian literature.

Its always a great blessing when we get to hear of how the books and Bibles are being received at the other end. We often get encouraging letters and emails from the recipients. These books that you faithfully and generously give us are truly changing lives. Over the years we have collected and taken many photographs of the Book Aid ministry here and overseas; but the one that really blesses me the most is a photograph that I have used several times in presentations or publicity. It shows a group of mainly women holding their new Bibles up in the air. The photo was taken in troubled Sierra Leone, and for some of the women it was the very first Bible they had ever owned. From that day on their lives were

going to change as they read and discovered the truth of God's Word.

We recently sent a container of books into Ghana and were thrilled to receive an email just a few weeks ago containing many pictures of the books arriving and the local bookshop and ministry where the books are being used and sold. The photos shown here are just two of the ones sent from Ghana. Some books are being used in Bible Colleges where the students use them in their studies - where they are being trained for the ministry. Schools are often recipients of books. Children are always pleased to receive books - books that will shape their lives for ever.

In the Bible, 2 Timothy 4.13, Paul asks Timothy to bring him his cloak, some books and some writing parchment. He knew the value of books. You may never get to go overseas to a foreign mission field. You may not be able to fund someone else to go, but you can pray for missions worldwide, and you can help us. If you have any Christian books that you no longer need or use, please give them to us. We have a large network of drop off points nationwide, there is likely to be someone near you who will take in the books for us - call us for contact details. Or bring them to one of the events that we will be at over the next few months. Your generosity can help change someones life forever. The pen truly is mightier than the sword because BOOKS CHANGE LIVES.



Children are always pleased to receive books

Come and hear more about the work of
Book Aid
1st November @ 7.15pm
Methodist Church, **TUXFORD** Notts.
Can't make it?
Would you like us to come and share at your church or group?
Call 01777 817101 for more details

News in brief... News in brief...

WE HAVE MOVED

We have now finally moved house. We felt the Lord's leading in our move back to the Wisbech area, where we have taken up responsibilities in the Full Gospel Fellowship Churches in the Wisbech and Peterborough areas. At the moment however we are living in rented accommodation but hope to move in to the property we are buying during late September or early October. Please note that the address given in this newsletter is only a temporary address, God willing we hope to keep our telephone number and the email address will remain unchanged.

MINISTRY

Since returning to Wisbech we have stepped back into the church ministry here at full pace. We are particularly active in the Peterborough church. It has been very encouraging, as we have seen God move in wonderful ways over the last few months. As we have come to worship the Lord, God has just broke in on the meetings and touched lives. Glory to His name.

FAMILY BITS

This new school term sees changes for both our daughters. Joanna will now be studying at the College of West Anglia on a Preparatory Course for Uniformed Services to provide her with the qualifications to pursue a career in the police force. Meanwhile Debbie starts the two year course for her GCSE's.

Peter & Jayne enjoyed a short but exhausting break over the summer months in Paris, where they took in all the sights - not to

mention climbing several thousand steps up the Eiffel Tower and shopping on the Champs Elysee.

BOOK AID

The Book Aid ministry continues to grow and expand. The London depot, bookshop and offices have finally moved into new much needed premises. Bromley House is amazing and even more amazing is the way that God answered prayer to bring us into this new home.

Doors continue to open as we were invited to take a van to collect books from the Greenbelt festival held over the August bank holiday, as well as having a presence at Grapevine, held at the Lincolnshire Showground the same weekend.

ON THE NET

The Book Aid website is now fully functional and can be viewed at www.book-aid.org We have had reports from some folk who are experiencing some problems with the loading of some of the pages. The pages are there on the web, and they will load eventually if you use the 'refresh' button on your browser.

Our own personal/ministry website has also been recently overhauled and can be viewed at www.pdw.supanet.com

Peter is available to visit your church or group to minister or to share about the work of Book Aid.

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E: pdw@supanet.com**

The sharp eyed readers among you may have noticed that in the last issue of The Word we quoted a verse from the Bible, giving it the wrong reference, for which we sincerely apologise.

The verse, "We walk by faith, not by sight" comes from 2 Corinthians 5.7 not Colossians 2.3 as printed last time.

Peter's Ministry Dates

04th October:

4pm - Prayer Meeting at Book Aid, **Ranskill, Notts**
Details: 01777 817101

01st November:

4pm - Prayer Meeting at Book Aid, **Ranskill, Notts**
Details: 01777 817101

01st November:

7.15pm - Tuxford Methodist Church, **Tuxford, Notts**
Details: 01777 817101

21st November:

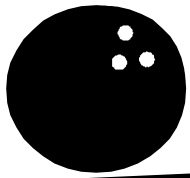
Cheshire & Stoke Methodist Women's Network Conference, **Wolstanton**
Details: 01777 817101

06th December:

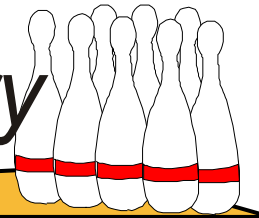
4pm - Prayer Meeting at Book Aid, **Ranskill, Notts**
Details: 01777 817101

Peter also regularly ministers at Full Gospel Fellowship in Peterborough & Wisbech. Call 01945 474734 for details.

There may be other services planned which were not arranged at the time of publication Log on to www.pdw.supanet.com for up to date details.



The Greatest Victory



A.W. Tozer once wrote, "Nothing deforms and twists the soul more than a low or unworthy conception of God". Many people will say that they love God with all of their hearts and all of their beings and yet find it very difficult to believe the things that He says.

How many times have you heard preached from John's Gospel that God loves you so much that He was willing to die for you, to take your place so that you might not perish but have everlasting life. That's true - He did. We embrace that and receive from God the forgiveness of our sins and everlasting life. We believe it and accept it and receive it.

If we believe that God loves us that much that He would leave the splendour and glory of Heaven to come as a man and die, so that we don't have to. How can we then believe that this same God would want to see us struggling with life, sick and riddled with diseases or broke and in desperate need. How can we say with one breath that God is all love and then say that God wants us sick, broke and suffering. It just doesn't add up - any parent that truly loves their children would not want to see their child suffer or be in need, and if any those things should happen we would immediately go to help them and relieve the suffering and pain. Is God any different? How low can our conception of God get - Tozer said that that type of attitude deforms and twists the soul.

We believe that Jesus died to save us, but do we really understand what that means. Too many people for too long have only understood that to mean that we have forgiveness of sins. That's right but it is only just a part of what salvation is. The Greek word for salvation is '*soteria*' and in its fulness encompasses deliverance, preservation, soundness, health, prosperity, happiness and general well-being. The word is used in both a material, temporal sense and in a spiritual, eternal sense. Salvation is something that we can enjoy in the present now and in the eternal future. The word has its origins from the Greek word '*sozo*' meaning to save, heal, preserve and make whole.

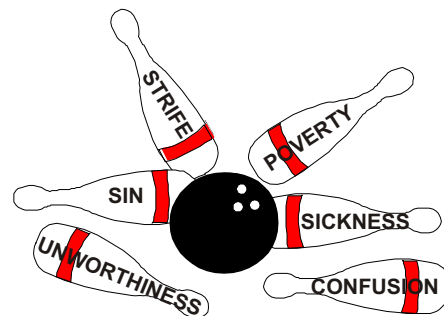
When we say that Jesus is our Saviour, we are

actually saying that Jesus is our healer, our preserver, our deliverer from the curse of sin and from poverty. He's our provider, the One who gives us soundness of mind, the bringer of peace and happiness. I think that encompasses just about everything that we face in life, don't you.

A couple of years ago we took Debbie bowling on her birthday - the object of each round of the game is to knock down as many skittles as possible. If you manage to knock all ten skittles down with just one ball you score a strike. None of us are experts and over the twenty rounds we played we managed to get about two or three strikes between the four of us.

If we use the analogy of the skittles, when Jesus died on the cross He scored a perfect strike. He knocked out every skittle of poverty, every skittle of sickness and disease, every skittle of confusion and strife. He won the greatest victory ever - so that you can enjoy the fulness of your salvation, your *soteria*.

Don't say that God wants you sick or broke in order to teach you a lesson, that's a slur on His nature. He knocked out sickness so that you can enjoy fulness of health, He took poverty and lack so that you can live well and be a blessing to others. The devil wants you to believe that there



are still some skittles standing, Jesus scored a strike. Get into God's word. If you can find a promise of blessing, of healing, of deliverance in some area, You can count on it that God will bring it to pass for you. Get rid of that low conception of God and start believing that He will do whatever He says He will do for you. Enter into the fulness of your salvation and enjoy the full benefits of that greatest victory ever. ♥