

Choices and Consequences

By Paul J. Meyer



What you choose to say and do will change your life. What is more, it will become your life, affecting you and everyone around you. That is because you possess one of the most powerful forces in the world – the power of choice.

Making choices will bring consequences, whether good or bad. This may seem a little obvious, but why do people fail to grasp this reality? Winning an academic scholarship, hitting a sales goal, and making a wise investment might be called “rewards,” “profits,” or even “luck,” but in reality, they are simply the consequences of making the right choices at the right time in your life.

This principle has been referred to as “sowing and reaping.” Whatever it is you plant, whether it is physical, spiritual, mental, financial, relational, or emotional, it will grow and someday come back to you in a multiplied condition. It can be incredibly good or terribly bad – depending on the seed.

Minor Choices, Major Impact

You never know how large the impact may be from a seemingly minor choice. I found this to be the case several years ago on a family vacation when the cruise ship we were on stopped briefly on the Cayman Islands. I asked the captain, “Do you know of any place prettier than this?” He said it was the prettiest of the eight stops the ship would make, so I replied, “OK, we’ll get off here.”

Little did we know that the Caymans would become the home office to several of our overseas businesses and prove to be one of the best choices we ever made, not to mention the location for many meaningful relationships, unforgettable times as a family, and great business deals. One choice, with many positive consequences as a result.

If you hesitate to exercise your freedom of choice, others will choose for you and tell you what to do, directing you toward *their* goals, not yours. Use your freedom of choice to design a stronger, more positive self-image for yourself. If you are fearful, choose courage. If you are timid, choose to love people. If you frequently procrastinate, choose to take action now. If you have always waited for others to lead, choose to act on your own initiative now.

Saying “yes” to one thing means saying “no” to another. *How wisely you use the power of choice is up to you!*

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Give Out What You Want to Get Back

While stopped at a traffic light one day, I couldn’t help but notice the little girl who was peering out the back window of the car in front of me. She looked disgruntled, out of sorts, and mad at the world. It was obvious that she wasn’t having a great day. She could see that I was looking at her, and she glared back at me.



I decided to have a little fun with her and responded to her scowl with a big smile. She wasn’t amused, and she retaliated by sticking out her tongue at me and making a face at me. I just smiled back at her – a much bigger, warmer smile this time. It was obvious that she didn’t know what to do since I responded to her in an unexpected way. She was stumped and unsure of what to do next. I just continued to smile, and then I waved at her. Now the ball was in her court. Suddenly, she disappeared out of my view, but when she reappeared, she was holding up her doll for me to see – and she was smiling too. We do, indeed, get back what we send out.

I read something one time that said if you’re dog-tired when you come home at night, maybe it’s because you’ve been growling all day. The wisdom of the Golden Rule still holds true today. Radiate cheerfulness, a love of life, and a sincere interest in others. Treat everyone with kindness, respect, and loving compassion. If you want to have great days, what you give is what you’ll get.

Julie Alexander is a professional speaker who works with organizations that want to boost morale and people who want great days on and off the job. She is the author of Great Days: 50 Ways to Add Energy, Enthusiasm, & Enjoyment to Your Life and Make Life Count! – 50 Ways to Great Days. For more information, visit www.JulieAlexander.com.



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