



**GROUP  
STUDY**

# GETTING READY FOR MORE

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## INTRODUCTION

### Galatians 3:26-4:7

So in Christ Jesus you are all **children of God** through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs according to the promise**. What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." **So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.**

As young adults, we need to grow in our faith – to become full heirs of the Kingdom and live a life that is full of miracles and the glory of God. BUT that means growing up and maturing in our faith and lifestyles. God has given us every good thing. But sometimes we need to be ready to carry all that He has prepared for us.

*"Spiritual maturity is not based on the number of years you have been a Christian, but how many choices you have made as a Christian."*

- Erwin MacManus

Over the next few weeks we will be looking at a number of choices that we need to make in order to mature and grow into our inheritance as Christians. As we work on disciplining ourselves and expanding our capacity, I have faith that we will be able to steward the authority, promise, miracles and responsibility God has given us.

*"With great responsibility comes great power... Not the other way round."*

- Phil Dooley

It's time to grow up. It's time to see God change everything in our lives, our community, our nation and our continent!

# SCRIPTURES & DECISIONS:

## Decision 1: Our Non-negotiables

One true mark of maturity is making long-standing decisions and following through. As young adults, we are thrown into the world and need to establish how we live – with everything from doing laundry through to spending time with God. Every decision we make has a level of emotion attached to it. And if you are not careful, anxiety and stress can creep in when things aren't working out.

One of the best ways to steady yourself as you grow into 'adulthood' is to set non-negotiables: permanent, fixed values that will be consistent in no matter what. In that way, you are able to create some sort of routine and reference for everything else you need to accomplish throughout your week. Some great examples are: always brushing your teeth, having a set time to read your Bible, church every Sunday and a set time to stop and think within your week – just to name a few.

But how do you come up with your non-negotiables? How do you know if what you're setting is healthy? How do you hold to them when life starts getting crazy?

The Word is what we are told to measure our lives by.

### **Colossians 1:9-11 (TPT)**

*Since we first heard about you, we've kept you always in our prayers that you would receive the perfect knowledge of God's desire for your lives, making you reservoirs of every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding.*

*We pray that you would (1) walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become (2) fruit-bearing branches, yielding to His life, and maturing in the rich experience of (3) knowing God in His fulness!*

*And we pray that you would be energized with all His explosive power from the realm of His magnificent glory, filling you with great hope. Your heart can soar with joyful gratitude when you think of how God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light.*

With the use of this passage of scripture, I believe we can be guided into making the choices that will grow us and build our lives effectively. Here are a few questions that we can ask ourselves when faced with a decision regarding our time and what is non-negotiable for us.

(for example: I have a test coming up, but also have church on Sunday night. What do I prioritise?)

## **Mapping our Non-Negotiables:**

### **1. Will God partner in this with me? And if so, what is my end of the bargain?**

(Ref Col 1:10) The Greek word for 'ways of true righteousness' refers to living WORTHY of God. It literally is the same word for AXIS, which is a picture of a scale. If God is on one side of the scale, is my life weighted to the same measure on the other?

### **Matthew 11:29-30**

Jesus said:

*"Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

A yoke is a collar in which two oxen or horses were tied to. Jesus is talking about a partnership – where we both pull the 'weight' of life.

So – if you are facing a decision – firstly remind yourself that God is 'pulling' right alongside you. Would he be moving in the same direction you are thinking of taking in your decision? Because with him you're not carrying the load as much as if you were doing it on your own.

Once you've answered that question honestly, you can then move on to considering what God will do and what you are required to do.

The overall result of being shaped by this question will be REST – not lethargic laziness, but a stress-free way of living.

### **2. What will the fruit be if I make this decision a non-negotiable?**

(Ref Col 1:10b) If we are living worthy of God's inheritance, then we also will bear fruit. When faced with a decision, you can simply consider the fruit.

### **Matthew 11:16-20**

Jesus said:

*"By their fruit you will recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit... So then, by their fruit you will recognize them."*

If someone had to judge your life by the fruit of your decisions, how would you change your lifestyle?

If you have two options, weigh up which one will be MOST beneficial/fruitful – not only for the immediate future, but for your longterm wellbeing.

For example: Would setting exercise as a non-negotiable be fruitful straight away? Probably not. And you might need to study but that hour outside will help release stress, refresh your brain and give you

a sense of achievement that would make your study time more productive. It would also remind you that there is life beyond your year average or achievement levels on paper.

### 3. Will I know more of God through this?

(Ref Col 1:10b) God sees (and will use) every area of our lives without a doubt – even the areas we don't want Him to know about.

### **Luke 17:3**

Jesus prayed this in the garden before He was betrayed:

*"Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

In setting your non-negotiables, it is important to remember that life is a consistent journey of discovering and engaging with God. Every single thing we do can inform and grow us in the knowledge of God. Will whatever you considering inform you more about God's nature and make you more like Him?

It is important to acknowledge that EVERYTHING good can be an opportunity to know God. But it is looking at what is most beneficial for you – watching a movie can inspire creativity and allow you to be fascinated with the vast ability God has given people. But at the same time, spending time by yourself in worship could be something you really need in the moment. We don't need to spend every waking moment busy with things that are considered 'spiritual' – our job is to find God IN everything we do throughout our day. That could be in drinking a coffee, speaking to a friend, expanding your mental capacity at uni or excelling in a project you're not enjoying.

### **Jeremiah 29:13**

*"You will seek Me and find me when you search for Me with all your heart."*

## **Promises for your non-negotiables:**

The scripture continues with some promises that you will need when life starts trying to pull you away from your non-negotiables:

### 1. God gives you the energy

#### **Colossians 1:11**

*And we pray that you would be energized with all His explosive power...*

Once you have set your non-negotiables, God will give you the energy to hold to them and navigate in life. He will partner with you in your decisions and bring you through the situation.

Q. Have you ever been surprised by how well something went – and regretted stressing?

### 2. God has given you His inheritance and cannot be taken away

#### **Colossians 1:11**

*God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light.*

You cannot earn God's inheritance. It's yours. And in the same way, you cannot lose it. But your decisions will determine whether you can access it. It's like if your parents bought you a car when you were 16: it is yours, but you won't be able to drive it until you come of age and have passed a few tests... God's Kingdom is the same. It's not going anywhere even if we make the wrong decisions and don't grow. But when we DO choose to grow into maturity and live in the light, we will be able to use our inheritance for the good of ourselves, others and this world.