

and that's...  
**The Gospel Truth!!**  
with Pat Corn

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a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

### Choices

Sung by George Jones  
From The Album: Cold Hard Truth, 1999

CHORUS:

I've had choices, since the day that I was born  
There were voices, that told me right from wrong  
If I had listened, I wouldn't be here today  
Living and dying, with the choices I made

Christian author A.W. Tozer wrote that "the missing crown jewel of the church is worship". Like any gemstone, worship has many facets to it. One facet of worship that enhances our daily lifestyle of worship and defines our relationship with the Father is found in the daily choices that we make. What ever we think, do, say, or act upon should be an expression and evidence of our love for Him. In John 4, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that, "a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." True worshipers must be pretty rare if the Father is "seeking" them. Our daily lives can be dramatically changed simply by the choices we make and we develop into "true worshipers".

Every choice we make is the result of one of two promptings. We are either "inspired" or "motivated" to choose the things we do. Most people think that these two words are the same thing, but are, in fact, total opposites, completely opposed to one another.

Let's take a look and compare inspiration and motivation.

The root word of inspiration is "spirit". An inspired choice comes from within, and is a response to the Spirit. The root word of motivation, however, is "motive" which is a response to man or circumstances where we make our choices as the result of being forced.

Inspired choices always produce the Fruit Of The Spirit; peace, love, joy, gentleness, kindness, faithfulness, truth, and self control (Gal 5:22). Motivated choices produce the Fruit Of The Flesh; hatred, discord, dissension, factions, fits of rage, envy, selfish ambition, idolatry, addictions and the like (Gal 5:19).

Inspired choices can be accomplished with Godly wisdom (James 3:17). Motivated choices rely on human knowledge alone and create an unwholesome atmosphere (James 3:16).

Inspiration allows us to take control of any situation and become the "Actor" versus being a motivated "Re-actor". We are not controlled by the motivator, but by the Spirit.

Inspired choices promote "Servanthood" where we choose to act on another's behalf. Motivated choices promote "Servitude", where we lose the loving choice for the betterment of others, but are coerced to action by the motivating person or circumstance.

Inspiration promotes "Unity" among others who are inspired. Motivation promotes "Uniformity" as one follows the mainstream crowd seeking their approval and acceptance.

Inspiration promoted "Innovation" as we respond to the mind of Christ with innovative ideas for the advancement of worship in our lives. Motivation promotes "Imagination" as one tries to escape the reality of their lifestyle of bondage through various means. We are told to "cast down every imagination that raises itself up against the glory of God".

Inspiration will produce "Abundant Life" where motivation will produce "Abundant Strife". Motivation sets the stage for problems even in the best of circumstances and intentions. Motivation creates an every increasing volume of manipulation.

The greatest motivator on earth is not money, sex, or fame, but our arch enemy "Fear". More bad choices stem from fear than any other motivator. Think of the bad choices that you have made in the past and look at the root of that decision. I'll bet you'll discover that your fears caused you to choose to act in the way you did.

The Bible states that "Perfect love casts out all fear". Read that backwards, "Fear casts out perfect love". It is very difficult, if not impossible, to lead an inspired lifestyle if you are not firmly convinced that your Heavenly Father loves you perfectly. He does. It's as simple as that.

And that's.....The Gospel Truth!!