

Decision, Not Emotion 4017

I. Introduction

- A. Ps. 103:1–2—David’s *spirit* exhorted his *soul* to bless the Lord. It was his spirit that was reaching out to the Lord, but his soul had to *make the decision*.
- B. 1 Cor. 6:17—The spirit knows God directly, and receives revelations. The soul deals with theories, theology and doctrines.
- C. Ps. 103:3–5—David listed six benefits for which his soul should praise the Lord:
 - 1. He forgiveth all thine iniquities
 - 2. He healeth all thy diseases
 - 3. He redeemeth thy life from destruction
 - 4. He crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies
 - 5. He satisfieth thy mouth with good things
 - 6. He reneweth thy youth like the eagle’s

To enter into God’s provision the soul has to make a decision. Many religious people wrongly look for some kind of emotion. The following religious experiences belong in the realm of decision (not emotion):

II. Repentance

- A. To “repent” means literally to “change your mind.”
Examples from the New Testament:
 - 1. Before Jesus could come as Messiah, John the Baptist had to come first and preach *repentance*—Mark 1:2–4.
 - 2. The first commandment that Christ gave was: “*Repent*, and believe the gospel”—Mark 1:15.
 - 3. After his resurrection, Christ ordained that “*repentance* and remission of sins” should be preached in his name among all nations—Luke 24:47.
 - 4. At Pentecost, Peter commanded: “*Repent*, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit”—Acts 2:38.
 - 5. At Ephesus, Paul preached “*repentance* toward God and faith toward Christ”—Acts 20:21.
 - 6. At Athens, Paul preached that God “now commandeth all men everywhere to *repent*”—Acts 17:30.
 - 7. In Heb. 6:1, the first foundation doctrine is “*repentance* from dead works.”
 - 8. In Revelation chapters 2 & 3, the first commandment of Christ to five out of seven churches was: “*Repent*.”

III. Forgiveness

- A. One of the greatest barriers to God’s blessing in your life is *unforgiveness*.
- B. Mark 11:25–26—If you pray with unforgiveness in your heart, it is a barrier between God and you.
- C. “Ought against any” leaves out nothing and no one.
- D. The Lord’s Prayer requires us to pray, “Forgive us, as we forgive others”—Matt. 6:12.

IV. Praise

- A. To praise God, you must not wait until you “feel like it”
- B. Ps. 34:1–2—David decided to praise and bless God at *all* times with his *mouth*
- C. Ps. 63:3–4—David decided to praise and bless the Lord with the lifting up of his hands (compare 1 Tim. 2:8; Heb. 13:15).

V. Speaking In Tongues

- A. 1 Cor. 14:15—Four times Paul says “I will.” Whether or not to speak or to sing in tongues is a *decision*.
- B. Jude 20:21—In the midst of ungodliness, we must build up our faith and keep ourselves in the love of God by praying in the Spirit (i.e. an unknown tongue).
- C. Acts 2:4—At Pentecost the disciples began to speak (by a decision), then the Holy Spirit gave them the words.