

CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 7

Have you made choices that have caused you trouble? A speeding ticket, not paying a bill, too much to drink or inhale, losing your temper, saying things you regret...When you've made bad choices, remember, God always gives you a **SECOND CHANCE**. The Bible is God's record of how He gave second chances to many people no matter how terrible their action was. If you think God can't or won't forgive you or welcome you back into His love then this message is for you!

Pastor Curt shared from the current series called Cloud of Witnesses about a man named Jonah who made a very bad choice then experiences God's second chance. Truth is, we can recover from bad choices by: **Taking Responsibility, Repenting and Turning away, and Embracing God's grace**. We also learned how we can guard against making bad choices by **using God's Word to guide us, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom, and seeking godly counsel**. Life is a series of choices or decisions. Wouldn't you like to learn specific ways to make good, loving, and godly decisions? **Here is a key question: Are you making decisions that are drawing you closer to God or driving you farther away from God?**

Discussion Questions

- When we make decisions that are not God-honoring we feel guilt, remorse, regret, even condemnation. Let's face the truth - all of us have made bad decisions. Talk about a time when you made a bad decision and found yourself far from God. How did you recover from that bad decision? Share how you experienced His faithfulness when you took responsibility for that bad choice and repented.
- Would you say that you are making decisions that are drawing you closer to God or driving you farther away from God?
- We learned three ways we can recover from bad choices. What are they? What does the Bible say about each one? Which are you willing to do?
- Talk about the three practical steps you can take to safeguard against making bad decisions. How can you use God's Word to guide you? What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit? Who in your life can you reach out to for godly counsel? What is your **NEXT STEP**?

Prayer Focus

Thank God for His amazing grace. Thank Him for defining your identity by His love for you rather than the mistakes you've made. Ask God to show you any areas of your life where you need to take responsibility and repent for a bad decision. Ask Him to remove any lies you've believed about yourself as a result of your bad choices, and ask Him to help you receive His grace.

Next Steps

Take responsibility for your bad choices and repent. Identify the ways in which you've let your bad decisions define or disqualify you, and release them to God. Receive God's grace for you and allow the love of God to define you. Seek wisdom through the Word, the Holy Spirit and godly counsel as you move forward in pursuit of God's will for your life.

Leader Tip

If you're not already, commit to reading your Bible every day. A simple devotion plan is a great place to start check out: <https://victorychurch.org/resources/s-o-a-p-cards/>