

WORD

¹⁹"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them." **DEUTERONOMY 30:19,20**

As God used Moses to review and restate God's covenant with His people, Moses made an important challenge and conclusion. If God's people chose not to follow Him, they and the generations after would experience death and a curse. But if they chose to follow God, they and the generations after would instead experience life and blessings. The choice was theirs to make, and Moses challenged them to choose life, which means to choose God—because He is our life and length of days. Everything we are and everything we have is because of Him. Who we will live for is the most important decision we will ever make. In this lesson, we will further dissect what Moses meant when he challenged the Israelites to choose life.

1 Love God.

"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." **DEUTERONOMY 6:5**

To choose life and God means to love God above all else and with all we have. It means we are exclusively and completely devoted to Him. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, energy, and abilities. After all, our greatest blessing—more than worldly success or fame—is our relationship with God, and we have the privilege of passing this on as our greatest inheritance to the next generation. What are some practical things you do to show your love for God?

2 Obey His voice.

¹"And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ²And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God." **DEUTERONOMY 28:1,2**

Choosing life means to choose what God wants for you above all else. Left to ourselves, we can't obey God. We are naturally bent to sin, and it's only in Christ that we can be made righteous and perfect before God. As God's children who have experienced His grace, though, we now know Him and we can obey Him. And He promises greater blessings for obedience. We can't just know God and not obey—if we really love Him and have encountered Him, we will obey and follow Him, not just for the blessings but so that He may be honored in our lives. If you want to know God and obey His voice, why do you need to go deeper in His Word?

3 Hold on to God.

"You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him." **DEUTERONOMY 13:4**

Choosing life, loving God, and obeying His voice aren't one-time occurrences. These will need to be done consistently and faithfully. That's why we need to hold on to or *hold fast* to God. We continually believe Him, depend on Him, and trust Him because choosing to live for God is for the long haul—in our lives and in the generations to come. How have you learned to hold on to God?
