

2016 – Turn the Page
“Change Begins with a Decision”
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Sunday, January 10, 2016

Philippians 3:13-14(TLB) ~ I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us.

- We can't live fully in the now if we are paralyzed by our past!
- We will never be able to enjoy today if we continue to relive yesterday.

Just as the year, 2015, is over, likewise those painful moments and days in your past are literally over. The terrible event is done; the hurtful experience is behind you, the words of that person or their actions which caused you so much pain is past.

The pain from the experience, or moment, or events may still be present today in your life in 2016-but the event which caused the pain is past. When we allow the pain of past events to rule our present life we allow the event to live longer than it should!

There came a moment in my life that I had to make a decision. I had to decide if I was going to live the rest of my life as if Feb.27, 2007 was present or Feb.27, 2007 was past!

1 Peter 5:8-9(NLT) ~ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

Eph. 6:12(NLT) ~ ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in

the heavenly places.

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2 Cor.2:11 (NLT) ~ <sup>11</sup> so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes. (maneuverings).  
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Eph.6:11 (NLT) ~ ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.
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- The devil gains access into our lives either through permission, disobedience or ignorance.

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Luke 10:19 (NLT) ~ ¹⁹ Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.
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1 John 4:4 (NIV) ~ You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.  
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Eph.1:17-23 (NKJV) ~ ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
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Eph.2:4-6 (NKJV) ~ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
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- As a child of God anytime you deal with evil, you should deal with it as an inferior force!

- As a child of God anytime you deal with the demonic activity, you should deal with it as a defeated foe.

The name “devil” is taken from the Greek word “diabolos.” It is a compound of the words “dia,” and “ballo.” The word “dia” carries the idea of “penetration,” and the word, “ballo,” means to throw something such as a ball or rock.

Literally the word, “diabolos” describes the repetitive action of hitting something again and again-until finally the wall is so worn down that it can be completely penetrated.

The devil is one who strikes repeatedly, again and again, until he finally breaks down a person’s mental resistance.

- *This is how the enemy works! He will repeatedly try to hit you with lies, suggestions, condemnation, memories of mistakes, betrayals, accusations, scenes of your failures one after another. The devil attempts to wear us down and eventually break through and take us captive.*

- *Any type of deliverance begins with a decision*

- 1594-Henri IV was crowned King of France
- 1803- Great fire in Bombay India
- 1827-First Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans
- 1869-John Menard was the first black person to make a speech in the US Congress

- 1883-Oscar Hammerstein patents the first cigar rolling machine
- 1908-Star #46 was added to the American Flag to signify Oklahoma
- 1922- Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution- Women’s Right to Vote
- 1941-James Stewart and Ginger Rogers won an Academy Award for the movie

“Rebecca.”

- 1960-US Olympic Hockey Team beat the USSR 3-2 and went on to win the Gold Medal
- 1963-Mickey Mantle signed a baseball contract with the New York Yankees for \$100,000
- 1981-Paul McCarty and Stevie Wonder record “Ebony and Ivory”
- 1991-Gulf War ends

- 1992-Tiger Woods, 16, becomes youngest PGA golfer
- 2003-Rowan Williams is enthroned as the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury
- 2007-Mark Messer’s #11 Jersey is retired by the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Team

- 2010- Central Chile is hit with an 8.8 magnitude earthquake
- 2012-Wikileaks begins disclosing 5 million emails

The moment I was able to see the event as past history, I was then able to successfully deal with the present pain that terrible event caused!

The Apostle Paul made a decision to allow his past to be in the past, so he could move on and be what God wanted him to be in the future!

1). In order to make a decision, you have to choose for yourself.

My decisions in life should be based upon my desire to live in obedience to God’s word and live a fulfilling life. My decisions should not be based upon your action or inaction.

2). When you make a decision, understand your choice involves sacrifice.

3). To delay your decision makes the right decision harder.

Each time you delay weakens your will and gives the pain another day to tightening its grip!

4). The time for any decision is limited.