



Which Door?

October 2017 - By Tamara Roberts

**“Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”
Luke 22:42 (ESV)**

That’s mine!”

“I want to play with it.”

“I had it first.”

“Mommy, she pulled my hair.”

“He pushed me.”

As I physically separated my two little loves into rooms where each peaked out of their doors, I said, “Hurting each other is not okay. I’m doing this because I love you.”

A tiny voice said through pouty lips, “Don’t wuv me!”

I understood what she was saying, and I felt the same way as a child. Okay, I still feel that way sometimes. I want my own way. Don’t we all?

Oz Hillman asked this question to businessmen in his Market Place Ministry: “What if there were two doors to choose from; behind one door was the complete will of God for your life and the second door was the opportunity to choose how life could be according to your own preference. Which door would you choose?”

What a question! Do we trust God’s plan for our lives? Can we let go of our own comfort and desires and let Jesus be Lord, the author and perfecter, and the boss of our life. It sounds like a no-brainer when we put it that way. So, why the struggle?

It’s always scary to feel we have no control. We want to follow God, but what is required? Discipline? Faith? Surrender? What might be behind door number one—the door of full surrender?

Kingdom success doesn’t come without sacrifice and suffering. We’ve seen what happens to heroes of history in the Word. Paul chose door number one and found sticking with his decision to be a battle of his soul.



In Romans 7:20-23, Peterson's *The Message* paraphrase shares Paul's struggles even after he made his choice:

I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

Like us, Paul had difficulties in his trip through door number one. When he wasn't wrestling with his own behavior, he experienced problems everywhere he went. He was beaten, shipwrecked, and imprisoned multiple times. But, he said in 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." He still chose door number one.

Paul knew door number two, his own choice, would only lead to death and hell. That sounds harsh, but the end result of following God is eternal rewards. When we choose for ourselves, we tend to go with comfort and the area of least resistance. The end of easy is rarely good. Door number one requires struggle because it means stepping out in courage to do the right thing no matter what. So how did Paul find a way to stick with God's choice for His life? Paul prayed. He prayed for himself and for those who follow Jesus. In Colossians 1:9, Paul asked God to give the Christians at Colossae wise minds and spirits attuned to His will, so they could understand the ways in which God works. He prayed for their strength to stick it out over the long haul with joy.

Think about how Jesus set the example. The Son of God, Jesus chose door number one. After His baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted. He passed that test, and we might think that would be good enough. But He still had three more years of surrendered life to successfully navigate. After the wilderness, Jesus taught and modeled how to constantly choose the door of God's will. He did all God asked Him to do.

Facing the end, our Lord knew what was coming. He would be abandoned by His friends, tortured, and crucified, all to save the world. He even asked to go through door number two. Where would the world be if Jesus had chosen the way of His own comfort? Instead, He chose surrender to God's will.

Where did door number one lead Him? Definitely, not comfort. Walking in God's will included arrest, humiliation, abandonment by His closest friends, torture, crucifixion, and death. But the rewards were eternally great. He was resurrected, ascended after forty days and now sits at the right hand of the Father, receiving the glory and honor due Him, and interceding for us.

Recognizing salvation is free while costing Jesus everything, how can we not choose door number one—confess Jesus is Lord—completely surrender.

Recent wildfires, hurricanes and floods have left loss, brokenness, and shattered lives. But, I know God has a plan for all affected. We've even seen some change in the media.

When the storms of our lives come, we can scream and struggle, wishing for door number two, or we can surrender to door number one and see how our loving God turns our misery into ministry. How? Where do we find the strength? How did Jesus find the strength to surrender to God's will? Prayer. Jesus prayed. He prayed sweating blood and God gave Him strength. We can follow our Lord's example, pray, and choose door number one.

Prayer: *Mighty Loving Father, Thank You for having a greater plan than we can imagine. Thank You for loving us enough to be tough, for using the trials of life to mature and mold us into all You would have us become. Thank You for helping us choose door number one, and making us overcomers. Amen.*

Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of September 26, 2017: Kristen King, Faye coke, JoAnn McMorrow, Evelyn McIntosh, Anne Marie Coleman, Family of Cirilo Pedroza (Lydia's husband), Family of Dot Piretti (the late Tommy Teague's sister), Isai ah Lucas (Diane Bourne's friend's 6 yr old son), Reese David Baylor, Paula (John & Linda Stigler's daughter), Franchesca (Celia Combs' sister), Pat friesen, Ezio Leite, Tammy Garcia, Marie Holt, Virgilia Martin, Dean Radke, & Calvin Winters (Jeremy's dad).

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Linda Andruss, Carol Barbee, Connor Bayless, Darlene Blackburn, Judy Blevins, Claudia Bone, Martha Bradford, Maxine Calvert, Al Cardenas, Delbert Cason, Judy Cherne, Mike Cobb, Karen Coker, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Diane Crabb, Betty Crumpler, Joan Daniel, Terry Denson, Ryan Donaghue, Ron Donahue, Brent Doyle, Jean Doyle, Lucy Eisenmann, Valinda Elrod, Kathy Engeling, Bob Englemann, Martha English, Jan Farr, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Elijah & CiCi Garcia, Ignacio Garcia, Lupe Garcia, Jan Giles, Larry & Anita Griffey, Tom & Hue Leite Harvey, John Heath, Virginia Hitchcock, Karen & Kemp Hoop, Brian Hostin, Vaughn Kankey, Mary Frances Kelley, Lee Kibbe, Ed Kimbell, Helen Kingston, Bob Korb, Becky Langston, Kee Law, Doug Leming, Frieda Merrell, Ralph & Imogene Mochizuki, Joyce Moody, Jenny Moore, Maxine Moore, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Doris Mayfield Pait, Jean Pulliam, Dell Richardson, Kristine Rines, Nelda Roik, Jody Rushing, Don Shaver, Linda Shepherd, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Bea Smith, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Charlsie Smith, Doris Snider, David Spradley, Joyce Stafford, Matha Sterling, Ladena Sullivan, Karolyn Taylor, Hubert Thedford, Mike Thomas, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Bob Votaw, Homer Wallace, Clayton Wayne Eddie White, Jim Willeford, Justin Williams, Lorene Williams, Mandi Womack, and Glenn Wright. Pray for NRHBC Staff and their families.

Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ God's leadership as we search for a full time Student Pastor.

☞ Wisdom in determining future Cross Church staff needs.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor and Global Missions requests prayer for:

✝ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund. We look forward to having our own building.

🌐 Effective strategy and leaders for community engagement.

🌐 God's direction in Missions & helping those in need.

🌐 Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.

Music & Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🎧 New membership for the fall.

🎧 Associate Music Minister Search.

Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

🚌 Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist each week or every other week; Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings.

Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

🍷 Opportunities to share Christ with those who use the Wellness Center each week.

🍷 Vitality among senior adults as they serve Christ.

🍷 Each NRHBC widow to feel loved and experience ministry here.

Daniel Stafford, GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

☺ God's direction in the GPS (Singles) Ministry.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry & Sandra Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Volunteers in KID Worship.

🚲 More volunteers needed at 9:30 and 11:00 so parents can attend Worship and BFGs.

🚲 ESL; an opportunity to minister to our community.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

💞 Relationships to blossom among NRHBC women.

MS, HS, & College Ministries requests prayer for:

📖 God's Blessings on the October MS and HS retreats on October 7-8.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

🍷 25 couples currently taking "Re-Engage" Marriage Class at 9:30 Sunday Mornings and for the 5 mentoring couples.

🍷 And for stronger, healthier, and happier marriages.

🍷 Those planning to attend the next class in January.

Joshua Jones, Director of Communications requests prayer for:

🍷 Courtney and I as we are about to start fostering. We need prayer support to help raise these children to ultimately know and love Jesus.

🍷 More volunteers are needed for Media Ministry at NRHBC.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
diane@nrhbc.org

North Richland Hills
Baptist Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

Non-Profit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT. WORTH, TX.
PERMIT NO. 586



Let us pray for the special activities of our church

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| Oct 1-8—Library Book Sale | Academy Home School Choir | Angel Land Preschool |
| Oct 1—Groundbreaking at Cross Church in Haslet | Apartment Ministry | BSF Groups |
| Oct 2 & 16 & 30—Mom to Mom | Bus Ministry | Child Care Ministry |
| Oct 3—50th Annual Men’s Fish Fry at Riverbend | Children’s Choir | Children’s Ministry |
| Oct 6-10—Vancouver “Thanksgiving” Mission Trip | College Bible Study | College Lab |
| Oct 7—GPS (Singles) to State Fair of Texas | College Worship | Connect Classes |
| Oct 7-8—MS & HS “Rooted” Retreat | Couples Ministry | Cross Church Campus |
| Oct 8—Discover NRHBC New Member Classes | Deacon Meetings | Divorce Care |
| Oct 8—GPS (Singles) Q & A Lunch with Pastor | Divorce Care for Kids | ESL Program |
| Oct 13—Kids Night Out Friday Childcare | Financial Peace University | Food Pantry |
| Oct 15—Deacon Widow/Widower Banquet | G.A.L.s Drama Group | Global Focus Ministry |
| Oct 21—Men’s Breakfast | Good News Clubs | GPS Singles Book Club |
| Oct 22—Baptism Sunday | GPS (Singles) Ministry | GriefShare Ministry |
| Oct 22—Leadership Equipping Meetings | Hispanic Ministry | Homebound Ministry |
| Oct 27-28—Women’s Retreat Riverbend | Kids Beach Clubs | KID Worship |
| Oct 29—GPS (Singles) Sponsored All-Church Food Drive to benefit the NRHBC Food Pantry | Ladies Prayer Group | Library Ministry |
| Oct 31—Trunk or Treat at NRHBC & Cross Church | Media Ministry | Men’s Bible Study |
| Tuesday Ministry Choir singing at various facilities | Men’s Mentors | Men’s Ministry |
| Tuesday Morning Senior Bible Study Fellowship | Middle School Hangout Music Ministry | |
| Young Singles 20s Tuesday Night Bible Study | New Members Ministry Pastor’s Prayer Team | |
| Adopt-A-School Mentoring Ministry | Preschool Ministry | Senior Adult Ministry |
| GPS Singles Wednesday Book Club | Upward Basketball | Women’s Ministry |
| Cross Church Summer in the Park | Wellness Center Ministry | Youth Ministry |
| NRHBC Fine Arts Academy | Youth Prayer Group | Youth Summer LIVE |
| Young Men’s Study Group | | |
| Wednesday Night WILD | | |