

# 4 QUESTIONS FOR QUESTIONABLE THINGS

A Biblical Perspective



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***<sup>9</sup> But ye are a chosen generation,  
a royal priesthood, an holy  
nation, a peculiar people; that ye  
should shew forth the praises of  
him who hath called you out of  
darkness into his marvelous  
light;***

***1 Peter 2:9***



## Introduction

When I was a teenager I had a wonderful Sunday School Teacher named Lisa. To my knowledge, she had no formal training just a heart for God and His Word. I grew up in a church where the altar was only used for those seeking salvation for the first time. Rarely, did anyone even breathe during service much less make a move to seek God. Lisa was different—and it showed. She loved The Lord, her family, and her church. Many times, during the altar call at the conclusion of the service you would find Lisa in the altar crying out to God. This influenced my life even back then. I witnessed a hunger for God in her that I didn't see in many others. I will never forget the impact she made on my life.

During a certain class discussion, a childhood friend and I decided to find out where the boundaries might be in relationships. We proceeded to ask, "How far is too far?" We expected a general answer about the pitfalls of intimacy before marriage. With such wisdom Lisa responded, "If you're having to ask me, then it's probably inappropriate." She continued, "If there's a hint of a question in your mind and heart it's better left alone."

Now that may seem simple to you but as a young teenager that was a "I should've had a V-8" moment! What she was saying, in essence, is that inner voice of conscience is one of the best indicators of right and wrong. God has provided that in creation but even further by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.



# QUESTION #1:

## WILL THIS GLORIFY GOD?

### THINK ABOUT IT

Can you name three things in creation, other than people, that highlight the glory of God? Explain.

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*I am The Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

*Isaiah 42:8*



The ultimate priority of all creation is to glorify God. Everything in creation bears the fingerprint of the Almighty. From the depths of the ocean floor to the heights of the mountain peaks into the atmosphere and beyond, all creation sings of the majesty and splendor of God.

Humans are no exception. In fact, we have been granted a special privilege because we are created in the very image of God Himself. Wow! Have you ever really considered the honor in that? God made all creation, but especially humans, to bring glory to His Name. However, God will not force His will on anyone. We have been given a choice to serve the God of all creation, or serve satan, the god of this world.

Each of us must decide what we will do with all God has given us. Will you use your life to serve satan who offers temporary pleasures which only lead to destruction and eternal damnation? Or will you choose to glorify the only God, who in love and mercy died for you to make you His own. If you are saved, then you are a child of the most High God with royal privileges along with an eternal inheritance in heaven. If we love God and are committed to pleasing Him, then every decision we make must adhere to this fundamental principle: we are created to glorify God! There are multiple titles mentioned in scripture describing God's glory. Let's take a look.

# TITLES OF GOD'S GLORY

## **In Psalms 24, He's the *King of glory!***

<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.

<sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

<sup>10</sup> Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Psalm 24:7-10

## **In Psalms 29, He's the *God of glory!***

<sup>1</sup> Give unto The Lord, O ye mighty,  
Give unto The Lord glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup> Give unto The Lord the glory due unto his name;  
Worship The Lord in the beauty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup> The voice of The Lord is upon the waters:  
The God of glory thundereth:  
The Lord is upon many waters.

Psalm 29:1-3

## **In Ephesians, He's the *Father of glory!***

<sup>17</sup> That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom  
and revelation in the knowledge of him:

Ephesians 1:17

## **In I Corinthians, He's the *Lord of glory!***

<sup>7</sup> But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery,  
even the hidden wisdom,  
which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

<sup>8</sup> Which none of the princes of this world knew:  
for had they known it,  
they would not have crucified The Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:7-8 (KJV)

## THINK ABOUT IT

Why is it so important to consider God's glory in our decision making?

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*And [God] said, thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.*

*Exodus 33:20*



The word *glory*, typically in scripture, deals with the “heaviness” or “weightiness” of God. How can you consider the “weight” of His presence? It’s hard to even comprehend the weight of a God whose hand laid the foundation of the earth, and whose right hand spanned the heavens (Isaiah 48:13). Yet this same mighty God knows each of us by name, and cares for us with an unfailing love. He is so worthy of all the honor and the glory, not just because He’s great, but because He’s good!

I have known people who could walk into a room and change the entire atmosphere. Everyone would adjust their demeanor at the entrance of such people. In many circles or occupations there are individuals whose words and decisions carry more “weight” than others because of their position or influence. That’s a *very* scaled-down illustration of God’s glory.

The majestic power accompanying the fullness of God’s glory is unimaginable. In Exodus 33, Moses petitions God, “...shew me thy glory.” Although it was barely a glimpse, God granted Moses’ request in part, allowing him to see only His back parts. No human can stand before a holy, righteous God and live. However, because of God’s love and mercy, Jesus is our great High Priest so that we can come boldly before God’s throne. We have access to God Almighty Himself through Jesus Christ.

We are created in the image of God. When facing decisions, we need only to look at Jesus, the Son of God, who is the perfect image of His Father. Jesus is our ultimate example to find direction for any choice in life. This is God’s goal for our life; He wants us to reflect the image of what we see in the face of Jesus. Walk, talk, act, and look like Jesus.

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<sup>5</sup> For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus The Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God *in the face of Jesus Christ*. <sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. <sup>8</sup> We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;  
II Corinthians 4:5–8 (KJV) emphasis mine

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Next time you face controversy just look in the face of the perfect role model, Jesus, and things will become crystal clear. Ask yourself: will this choice I’m making highlight and add to God’s splendor and beauty, or will it tarnish His image? He is so worthy of all the glory and so much more!

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<sup>3</sup> Who being the *brightness of his glory*, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;  
Hebrews 1:3 (KJV) emphasis mine

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## THINK ABOUT IT

Can you name some decisions you’ve made that have brought glory to God? (salvation, witnessing to someone, etc)

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Have you made any wrong decisions that you later realized did not honor the Lord?

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Decide today to bring glory to God. Take a moment and write down some goals that will help you reflect the image of Christ.

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<sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, **and for him**: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Colossians 1:16–18 (KJV) emphasis mine



***REALITY CHECK:***  
***EVERY DECISION REFLECTS***  
***UPON GOD***

## HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY WITNESS?

Until recently I wasn't sure where the poem in the sidebar came from. (Truth be told, I'm still not sure. I found endless references with many different authors and this seemed to be the most plausible.) I heard this poem nearly twenty five years ago and memorized it almost immediately. I have repeated it more times than I can remember and applied it personally nearly as many.

In truth, all of us are living embodiments of the gospel. We have been given great privilege and responsibility as born-again believers, and yes, we are the only Bible some will ever read! If our spiritual lives are dead then the world around us believes God is dead. The only way they will know otherwise is by our witness. The Apostle Paul, when writing to the church at Corinth, makes this truth plain.

<sup>2</sup> *Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:*  
<sup>3</sup> *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ* ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. <sup>4</sup> And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: <sup>5</sup> Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; <sup>6</sup> Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

2 Corinthians 3:2-6 emphasis mine

### THINK ABOUT IT

Read the poem below. According to the poem and II Cor. 3:2-6, how are we Jesus' witnesses? Explain.

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According to Scripture, what exactly is our "witness"?

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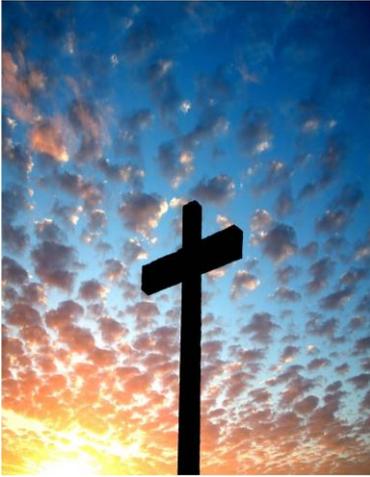
*You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.*

*Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?*

Attributed to Paul Gilbert -  
<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/292132-you-are-writing-a-gospel-a-chapter-each-day-by>



## THINK ABOUT IT



What does God desire to see when He looks at us?

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While serving as a youth pastor a number of years ago I used a very simple illustration. It involved a chair and two students. I would have one student stand in the chair and attempt to pull the other student up from the floor to the chair. When that failed (and it did every time), I would then have the student on the floor try to pull the other student down from the chair to the floor. The lesson became obvious; it's easier to be pulled down than to pull someone else up. I used this example when teaching students the importance of maintaining our witness.

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<sup>26</sup> And God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.* <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 1:26–27 emphasis mine

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God created man “in His own image.” This means that we are to be a reflection of the Creator. He wants to be able to look at us and see a glimpse of Himself. We must examine every aspect of our lives and take notice of how it will reflect upon Him. As Christians, we are given the responsibility of representing Jesus Christ in the earth.

You may be wondering how God can expect me, with all my frailties and faults, to represent Jesus Christ in the earth. There's no way I can be good enough, or holy enough for this task. I will never measure up! That's right! It is humanly impossible to be like Jesus, but that's where the Holy Ghost comes in.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, God will equip us to make right decisions no matter what the situation. When we walk in His Spirit, we don't go in our weakness, but in His power.



<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8 emphasis mine



## THINK ABOUT IT

How can our decisions affect our witness?

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Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

Romans 14:16

According to Romans 14:16, what do you think it means for your good to be "evil spoken of"?

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## REALITY CHECK:

**EVERY DECISION HURTS OR HELPS OUR  
TESTIMONY**

# QUESTION #3:

## THINK ABOUT IT

# WILL IT CAUSE SOMEONE ELSE TO

# STUMBLE?

Can you think of a decision that you've made that touched someone in a positive way?

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Why is it so important to be mindful of someone else's spiritual experience?

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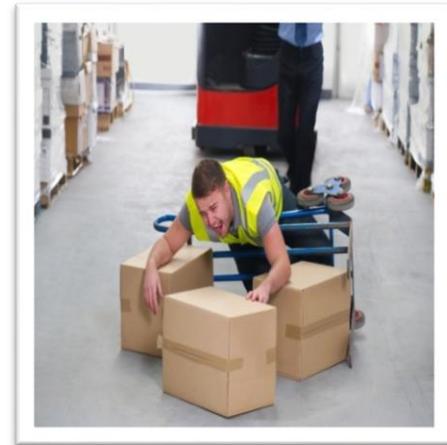
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This question moves beyond the realm of personal testimony to the arena of other believer's faith. Even if I've settled questions one and two, further examination is required.



***13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.***

**Matthew 23:13**

When I am faced with decisions, I must ask myself the question: how will this affect someone else's walk with Christ? The Apostle Paul made it clear that there were many things that were lawful for him, but also had the ability to cause someone weaker in their faith to stumble.

***9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. 10 For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; 11 And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? 12 But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. 13 Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.***

**1 Corinthians 8:9-13**

I have a friend (we'll call him Jimmy) that had been away from The Lord for quite a few years. When he rededicated his life to The Lord, he put down everything that he felt compromised his relationship with Jesus. He became a new creature!

Jimmy almost always kept a small round container of mints in his back pocket. What could be wrong with mints? For those who might not know, that looked remarkably close to a canister of tobacco in his back pocket. In fact, he carried the mints so often that the metal tin had left a permanent ring imprint on the back pocket of all his favorite jeans. The Bible warns us in I Thes. 5:22 to “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” Jimmy knew he didn't use tobacco, but no one else did.

One day, an individual approached Jimmy's wife, “I thought he became a Christian!” After Jimmy realized what the mint tin actually looked like, he quit carrying it. No one had to force him. He just did it because Jimmy didn't want to create a stumbling block for anyone around him. I know you might be saying, “Who cares what anyone else thinks?”

## THINK ABOUT IT

While reading the story about Jimmy's experience, what was your first reaction? Did you genuinely feel concerned about his witness?

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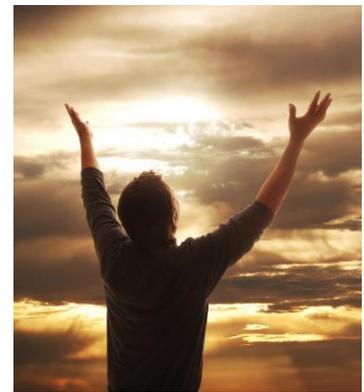
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***<sup>13</sup> Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.***

***Romans 14:13***

## THINK ABOUT IT

Have you ever found yourself changing something because it might cause someone else to stumble?

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or



Give 2 personal examples of how you could cause someone else to stumble in their faith.

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Many times I feel the same way, but if my desire is to see souls saved and disciplined, then I will care if my actions could hinder someone for all eternity. A can of mints is not worth someone's soul!

The key to remember is that not everyone is at the same maturity level in their walk with Christ. Obviously, I'm not saying that sin becomes okay a little further down the trail, but rather my actions may be perceived as sin and cause someone else to fall into error.

Jimmy wasn't committing a sin by carrying his mints in his back pocket. After all God knows our motives and intentions behind all of our actions, even before we do them or think them. However, as soon as the Holy Spirit convicts your heart of something, even if it seems as harmless as a mint tin, you better obey, or it will become sin. God's ways are perfect and right and the just shall walk in them. He is the only way!

## ***REALITY CHECK:***

***Every decision touches someone else***

## WHERE WILL THIS LEAD?

I had to decide! It was a great job offer, but I wasn't very excited about it! I know you have probably never felt this way, but I was growing very weary of my current job. At the time, I had a good job with decent pay and benefits, but I just wasn't satisfied. So when a job offer came along I was certainly interested.

At the time it seemed like a great opportunity! I worked through every possible pro and con. A company vehicle, better benefits, and more money were all pluses. The only problem was I was nervous about having to relocate and leave my church. That may not seem like a big deal, but I didn't know the extent of God's will for my life.

Even if it seems so promising at the time, the real question is *where* will this decision ultimately lead me? At first glance, the choice may appear harmless, and even very rewarding, but you must look ahead and follow things to their natural end.

### THINK ABOUT IT

Every decision leads somewhere. Name one decision you've made that has contributed to where you are in life right now.

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There is a way that seemeth  
right unto a man,  
but the end thereof are the  
ways of death.  
Proverbs 16:25



## THINK ABOUT IT

According to James 4:8, what criteria must be present for God to come closer to us?

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***<sup>8</sup> Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.***

***James 4:8***



As a Christian, I tried to rationalize the spiritual benefits of this move. I knew of another church in the new area, and better pay meant I could afford to tithe more. I wrestled with this decision throughout the interview and acceptance process. I had the job, but why didn't I feel at peace or more excited about the decision?

It turns out, my uneasiness about taking the job was more than just nerves. God was carefully guiding me with His hand because He had other plans for me, something better than a new job. I didn't know The Lord was calling me into full-time ministry, and it was to happen out of the church I was currently attending! Had I moved away, I might have never heard that call, or at the very least, had many more hurdles to jump through to answer it!

Many would argue that not everything is a "Heaven or Hell" issue, that there would have been nothing wrong with pursuing a better job opportunity. However, if you're not in God's will, and following the leading of His Spirit, then any situation can become critical. We must take a hard look at where any decision will carry us. If it leads anywhere but closer to God, then it's going in the wrong direction!

So, the question remains: Where Will This Decision Lead? Is it what The Lord wants for my life? Is it one of those things I could get away with, not really a salvation issue? But would it fail to cultivate a deeper walk with The Lord?

Our society today suffers from an epidemic of near-sightedness. We tend to only focus on the short-term and conveniently ignore the long-term. We want instant gratification. This insatiable lust for temporary pleasures leaves us with severe consequences and debts lasting well past the initial enjoyment.

Ask any drug addict if they ever planned on wasting their life at the time they fell for the line “everybody is doing it,” which sadly led to the horrible abuse of their body and mind. Ask the alcoholic if his intent was to destroy his life when he had his first “social drink” but has now lost his job and family.

***REALITY CHECK:  
EVERY DECISION LEADS  
SOMEWHERE***

**THINK ABOUT IT**

Name a time that you intentionally moved closer to God.

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Name a time that you found yourself moving away from The Lord.

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*<sup>12</sup> All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

*1 Corinthians 6:12*

