



Eternity – The Ultimate Path

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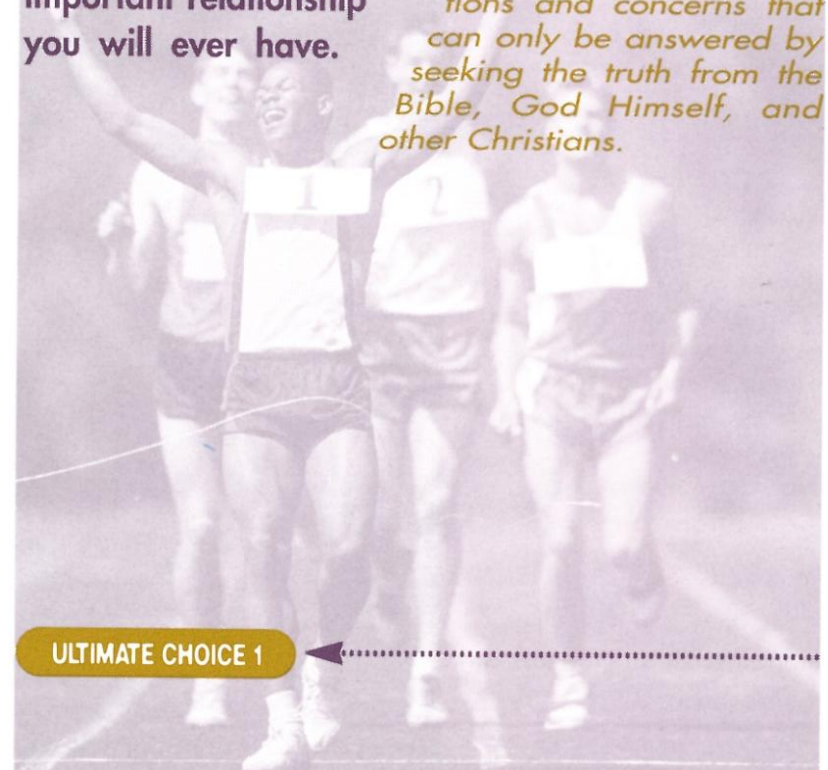
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Introduction

You have made the *Ultimate Choice* by inviting Jesus Christ into your life. This decision to follow Jesus is much more than just praying a prayer of forgiveness. This choice is the beginning of a whole new life which brings unique challenges and changes. It is the most important relationship you will ever have.

2 Corinthians 5:17
"What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

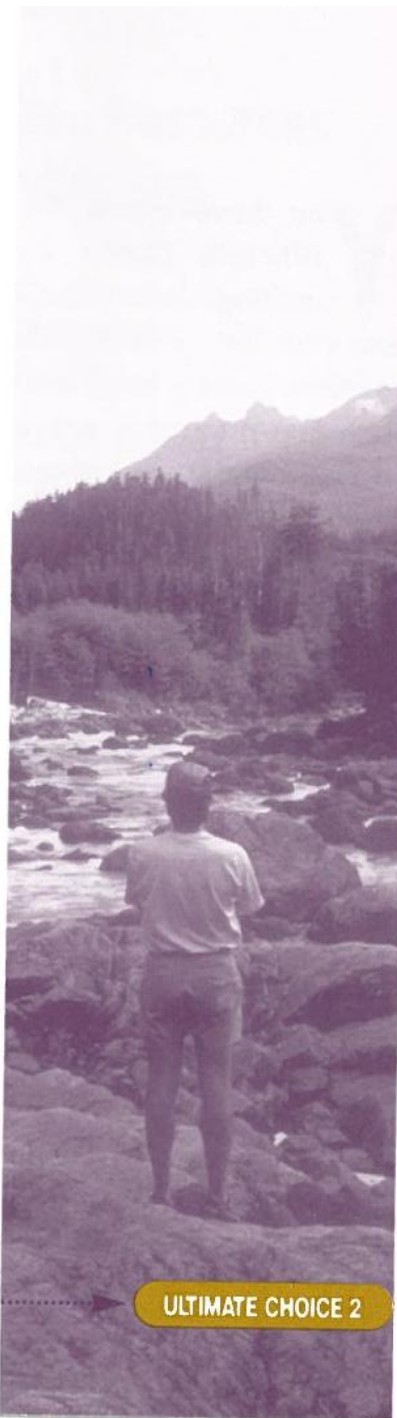
As with any adjustment of this magnitude, you will be faced with legitimate questions and concerns that can only be answered by seeking the truth from the Bible, God Himself, and other Christians.



ULTIMATE CHOICE 1

While all of your questions may not be answered in this booklet, it will assist in guiding you on the *Ultimate Path*, your new life with Jesus Christ.

Expect excitement as you journey down this path, giving Christ priority in your life.



ULTIMATE CHOICE 2

Understand that It Pleases God When You Turn from Sin

Although you have given your life to Christ and He has forgiven your sins, you will still face the challenges of selfish desires and ambitions, temptations, and other sins that are contrary to God's ways.

Recognize that you cannot overcome sin by yourself, but with God, all things are possible! You can overcome temptation as God gives you a desire to do right and as you aim to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

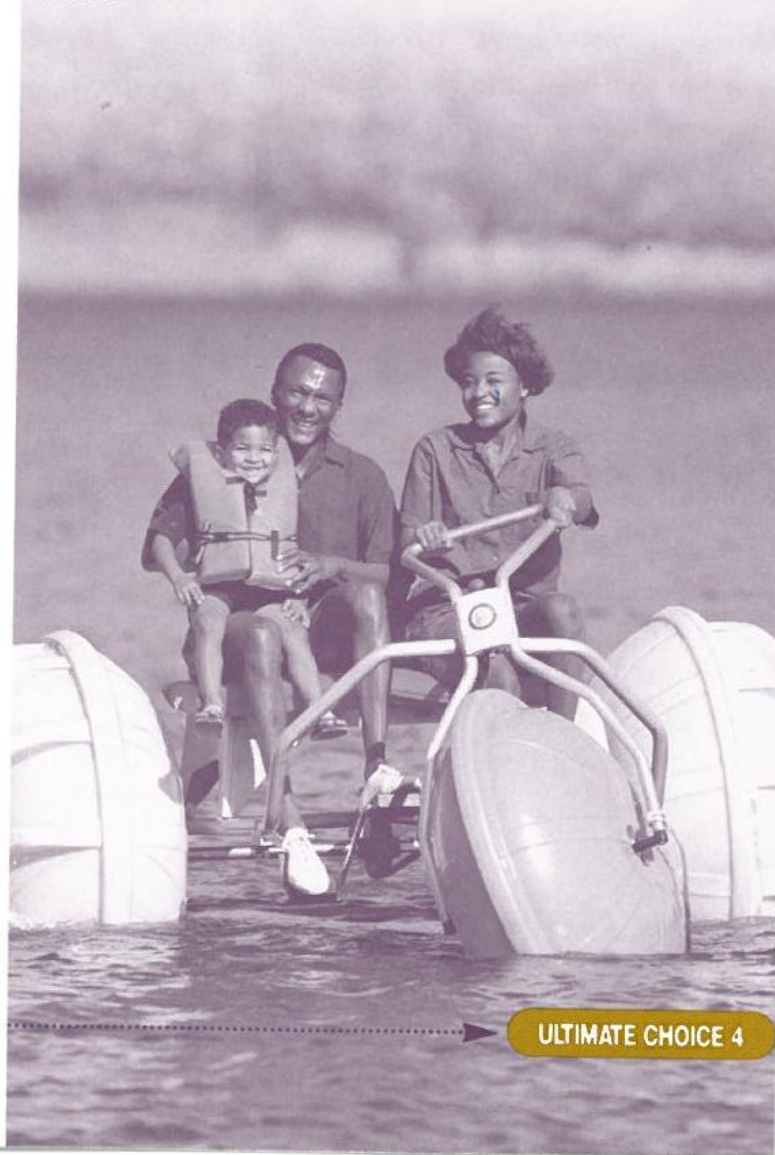
1 Peter 1:14-16
"Obey God because you are his children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God—who chose you to be his children—is holy. For he himself has said, 'You must be holy because I am holy.'"

Romans 12:2 "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is."

ULTIMATE CHOICE 3

Committing to a life-style that pleases God will bring immediate growth in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

This allows you to experience a victorious, healthy Christian life.



ULTIMATE CHOICE 4

Live the Rest of Your Life in the Ultimate Relationship

Just as in any other relationship, there are times when you will feel great closeness as well as distance in your relationship with Jesus. One important ingredient for a lifelong relationship is commitment.

Who would ever consider marrying someone who said, "I will be faithful 51 weeks of the year!" So it is with Jesus. He desires you to faithfully commit yourself to Him for the rest of your life.

There may be times when you fail or make mistakes in your relationship with Christ. In the same way that you have made a commitment to serve Christ, He is also committed to be faithful to you. He will continue to forgive you despite times of failure.



ULTIMATE CHOICE 5

Your deepest needs and desires will be met as you follow Christ daily, maintain your commitment to Him, and continually get to know Him better.

John 12:26 "All those who want to be my disciples must come and follow me, because my servants must be where I am."

John 15:4-5 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me."

Matthew 6:33 "... and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."



ULTIMATE CHOICE 6

Take Time to Read The Ultimate Book

Your body needs daily nourishment in order to survive. In the same way, as a Christian, it is imperative to daily nourish your heart and mind with the Bible, which is the Word of God.

1 Peter 2:2 "You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk..."

Because the Bible is one of the main ways God communicates to people, it is continually beneficial to read and memorize scriptures. It will help you in these ways:

Here are some important steps to consider as you begin your daily Bible reading:

- By giving you direction and insight (Psalms 119:105)
- By bringing you peace, joy, and comfort (Psalms 119:165)
- By strengthening you in times of need (Acts 20:32)
- By giving you hope (Romans 15:4)
- By increasing your spiritual strength (Luke 6:47-49)
- Find a Bible translation that is easy for you to understand, such as the New Living Bible.
- Begin reading in the book of John.
- Set a specific time each day to read.
- Do not let distractions stop you from reading.
- Keep a diary of how God is speaking to you.
- Meditate on each scripture you read.
- Pray before you read.
- Set realistic reading goals.

ULTIMATE CHOICE 7

Immediately Begin Building a Daily Prayer Life

One of the privileges of your new relationship with God is the opportunity to talk with Him concerning all of your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God! He loves to talk with His children.

1 John 5:14-15 "And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for."

Your relationship with God will only be as strong as your prayer life. Relationships are built through quality time spent together. Be sure to include these seven ingredients in your personal prayer time:

1. Give God praise and thank Him. (Psalms 100:4)
2. Give God honor and worship Him. (Psalms 96:9)
3. Examine all areas of your personal life.
4. Ask God to meet your personal needs.
5. Pray for the needs of others. (Ezekiel 22:30)
6. Listen and let God speak to you. (Isaiah 40:31)
7. Pray against the influence of evil and sin in your life. (Ephesians 6:12)

Make New Relationships With Other Christians

Relationship is one of the greatest human needs. The need for affection, love, and attention is inherent in every person, even from birth.

Proper environment and relationships shape one's character and values. As you begin your new life with Christ, you should involve yourself with three main types of relationships:

Established Christians: Find Christians who will help you in your new relationship with Christ.

Hebrews 10:24-25 "Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together . . ."

New Christian Friends: The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 15:33, "Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for 'bad company corrupts good character.'" Make it a point to seek out new Christian friends with common interests.

Pre-Believer Friends: Your friends who do not know Christ should hear about what He has done for you. The key is that you influence them and they do not influence you when you spend time together!

ULTIMATE CHOICE 10

Attend Church Regularly

God designed the church to be a vital part of His eternal plan rather than just a convenient gathering place. Your attendance and commitment to a local church is part of God's plan for you.

There are many churches, each having its own unique style and atmosphere. Selecting the right church can be a challenge. Whichever church you decide to attend, make sure that this church believes and teaches that the Bible is the accurate Word of God.

You will find that involvement in a local church will bring you fulfillment, in your relationships and in your personal life, that cannot be found anywhere else.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do."

ULTIMATE CHOICE 11

Thoroughly Involve Yourself by Serving in a Church and in God's Cause

You are very unique and special to God. He not only created you to spend eternity with Him, but He also gave you specific talents and abilities to be used for His cause.

You have a purpose and a destiny in God. It can be very rewarding to find your position on the team and give yourself to Christ, to His Church, and to His cause.

Begin by helping in any way you can.

Romans 12:4-6 "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well..."

Your availability and helpful attitude brings great pleasure to God.

ULTIMATE CHOICE 12

Encourage Others to Make the Ultimate Choice

You must admit that your new relationship with Jesus Christ is one of the most exciting events of your life.

Just as you have found the answer to your hurts, needs, and questions, other people also need to know the same truth.

Tell your relatives, neighbors, and co-workers about your new relationship with Christ and what such a relationship could do for them.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent."

Look for opportunities to invite close friends and relatives to church services, special events, or small groups to meet your new Christian friends.

John 15:8 "My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father."

ULTIMATE CHOICE 13



Additional Steps

Maintain Frequent Contact for Further Growth

As you continue on your walk down the Ultimate Path, make sure you spend time, on a regular basis, with an established Christian who can assist you further with each of these topics and help answer any questions you may have. Let this person teach you how he/she learned to walk the Ultimate Path.

Be Water Baptized

It is essential to talk with a Christian friend or leader about being water baptized. The Bible stresses the significance of this act of obedience.

Acts 2:38 "... Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. . . ."



.....▶ **ULTIMATE CHOICE 14**

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave a promise to all followers that He would send the Holy Spirit to empower His people. Ask your pastor how you can be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 "But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power . . ."

ULTIMATE CHOICE 15 ◀.....

