

SERMON SERIES

*"Certified Purveyors
of the High Life!"*

Text In Question of the Week:
What's the richest expression
of love you've had from another
person?

What is the aim? Matter and Manner
(John 5:39-40)

FIRST SIX WEEKS

1. Weeks 1-4: Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit

Mini-Intro: Hearing from God

2. Last 2 weeks: The Inner Life of
our Thoughts and Feelings

This Week

The Inner Life of Our Decisions

**The best decision you've ever
made**

Romans 7:13-25

Sin: Our Mortal Enemy

**The internal struggle - Our pre-
cious (and Problematic) Will**

Evil lies close at hand!

2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 34:15

Matthew 26:39, 10:39

Application - *Is it your will to do
God's will?*

Romans 7:13-25

13Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Psalm 34:15

"The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry."

Matthew 26:39

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 10:39

"Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

A neon sign with a red border and yellow text. The text is arranged in four lines, centered within the border. The sign is set against a black background.

CERTIFIED
PURVEYORS
OF THE
HIGH LIFE

Text In Question of the Week

Jesus said the two greatest commandments are:
Love God and love neighbor.

What's the richest expression of love
you've had from another person?

Text/Email to Cor@hopecc.com



What is the aim of this series?

The difference between believers and unbelievers as to knowledge is not so much in the matter of their knowledge as in the manner of their knowing.

~John Owen, *The Mortification of Sin*, in *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, ed. Kelly Kopic and Justin Taylor, 117. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2006.



WEEK #1: Do you want God for God?

How are you getting filled?

"Thou hast formed us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in thee."

~Augustine of Hippo, 354-430



Week #3:

The Holy Spirit is personal

1. The Spirit speaks
2. The Spirit bears witness
3. The Spirit teaches/reminds
4. The Spirit hears
5. The Spirit helps/intercedes



WEEK #2



Week #4:

The Holy Spirit is essential

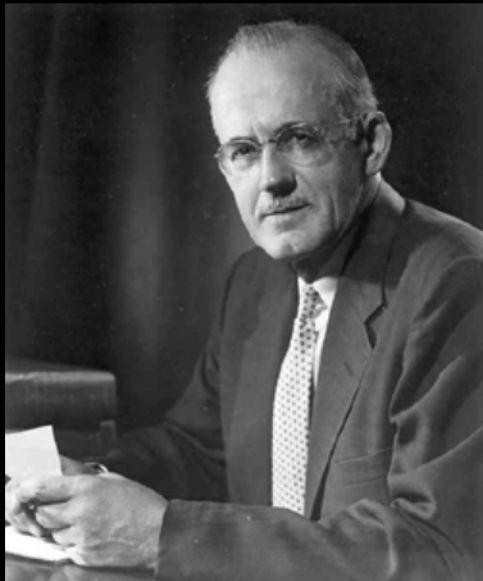
1. The Spirit informs specifically
2. The Spirit empowers continually



Hearing from God

How a typical person learns to recognize God's voice

"First, a sound as a presence walking in the garden. Then a voice, more intelligible but still far from clear. Then the happy moment when the Spirit begins to illuminate the Scriptures and that which had only been a sound or at best a voice now becomes an intelligible word, warm and intimate and as clear as the word of a dear friend."



A.W. Tozer
The Pursuit of God

How the typical person learns
to recognize God's voice

How the typical person learns to recognize God's voice

“This is Cor Chmielecki.
I’m a pastor at Hope Community Church.”

How the typical person learns to recognize God's voice

“This is Cor Chmielecki.
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“Hey, it’s Pastor Cor.”

How the typical person learns to recognize God's voice

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“Hey, it’s Cor.”

How the typical person learns to recognize God's voice

“This is Cor Chmielecki.
I’m a pastor at Hope Community Church.”

“Hey, it’s Pastor Cor.”

“Hey, it’s Cor.”

“Hey, it’s me.”

The Inner Life

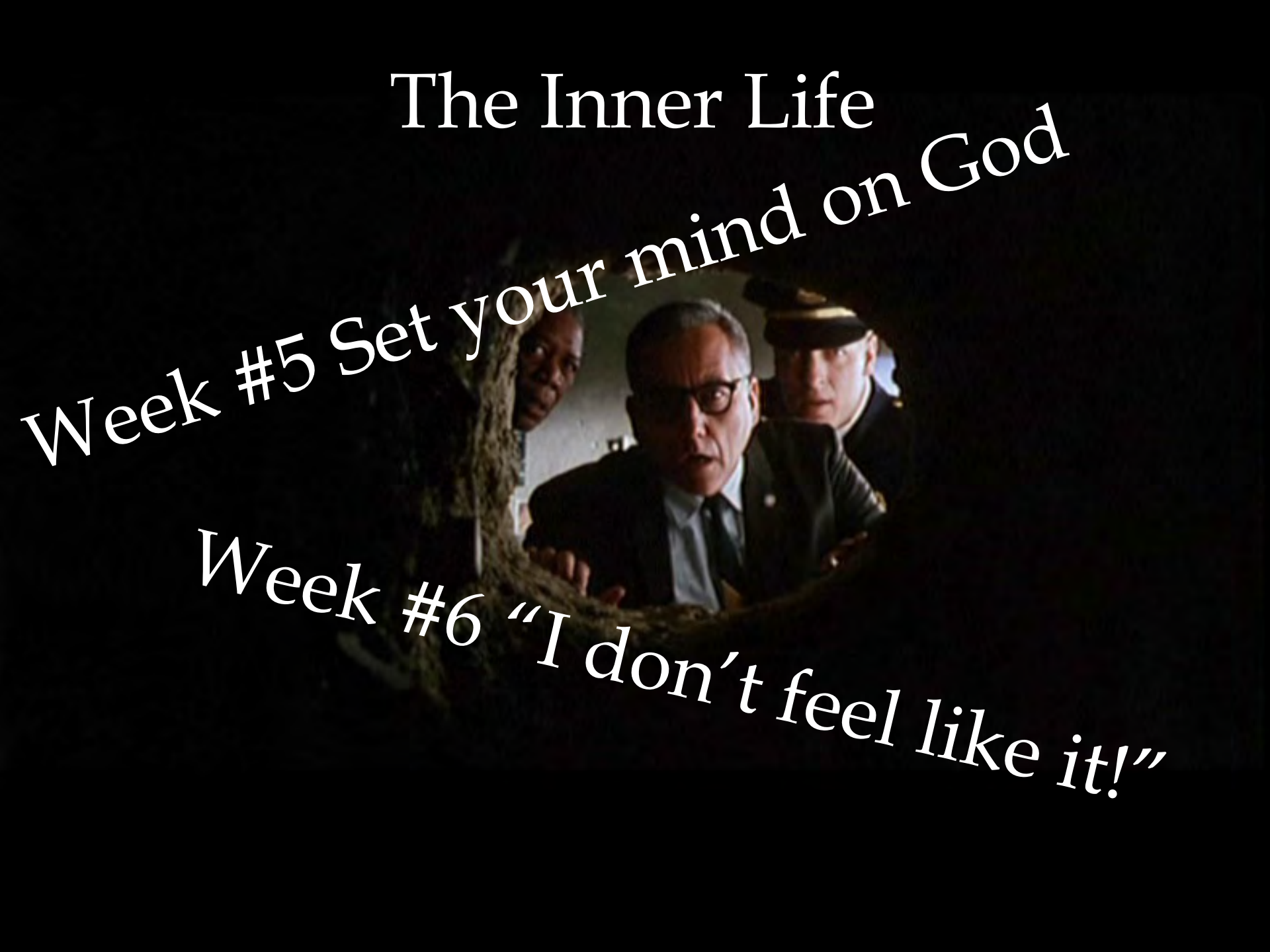


The Inner Life

Week #5 Set your mind on God



The Inner Life



Week #5 Set your mind on God

Week #6 "I don't feel like it!"

“One of the most striking evidences of sinful human nature lies in the universal propensity for downward drift. In other words, it takes thought, resolve, energy, and effort to bring about reform...where such virtues are absent, the drift is invariably toward compromise, comfort, indiscipline, sliding disobedience and decay that advances, sometimes at a crawl and sometimes at a gallop, across generations. People do not drift toward holiness. Apart from grace-driven effort, people do not gravitate toward godliness, prayer, obedience to Scripture, faith, and delight in the Lord.”

D.A. Carson, Professor of New Testament,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
For the Love of God, volume 2, Jan. 23 entry



This Week: The Inner Life

Decisions, Will, Choice, Capacity to
Originate



What's the best decision you've ever made?



What's the best decision you've ever made?

Being a camp counselor.



What's the best decision you've ever made?

My wife, hands down.



What's the best decision you've ever made?

humbly asking my best friend to forgive me of a great offense & pledging myself to their best interests above my own



What's the best decision you've ever made?

Apart from accepting Christ as my Lord, the best decision I've ever made was asking my bride's father for his blessing both to date and marry her. Doing so has allowed an amazingly smooth transition from his headship in her original family to my headship in our new family, and has made the whole "leave and cleave" transition less painful and more joyful.



What's the best decision you've ever made?

Doing what Jesus tells me to do regardless of what others think. For example: a lot of Christians over the years have told me not to use any of my gifts & talents because I risk offending others. I wasted so much energy denying my gifts & talents, avoiding the passions, etc.,...Jesus gave me.



What's the best decision you've ever made?

It was my first Sunday of my freshman year of college four years ago, and I decided to get on a sketchy bus to go to a church that I had never been to, with people whom I had never met in my life. The church was called Hope Community Church (duh). And, after seeing Danny Wilson rock with his pink electric guitar and sing Switchfoot's "This is Your Life," I realized then and there that I had found my new church home. Sure, the music is world-class, the sermons keep me (relatively) awake, and let's not forget about the plethora of single women. HOWEVER, I am most fortunate to have stepped on that bus years ago, because I soon found that my new church home contained an amazing family. A true community of Christ-followers who actually care about me as a person. Something I have never experienced in most other places. It sure made my stressful and sometimes depressive years in college suck less. And it continues to be a blessing to me today.



What's the best decision you've ever made?

My best decision(s) are the ones where I literally take the back seat, resist my urge to take control, and let God direct me. And so often, these are not at all what I would have done if I would have let myself take over control. Example: my husband. Just like most girls, I always wanted to have guys interested in me. In high school, I was the "friend." Never pursued by a guy for anything more than friendship. In college, that desire still existed, and there were many times where I wanted to get up the nerve to ask a guy out. I mean, in this day and age, it would be okay for a girl to pursue, right? Well, after I started my relationship with Christ my freshman year, I felt God was really telling me that I was to wait to be pursued by the one he wanted for me. This was not easy, over the next few years, I still had many urges to take initiative, but each time, I felt the Holy Spirit tell me not to and to wait.



CERTIFIED
PURVEYORS
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What's the best decision you've ever made?

(Graduate) school came around and while I still wanted someone to pursue me, let's be honest...I was crazy busy, so that helped distract me. Over all of this time with no pursuit from any guys, I started to wonder "is there something wrong with me that guys are not interested?" But the truth was...God knew my tendencies to justify, and if he had placed a guy into my life that wasn't the guy for me, I would have tried to force it to work. And then there he was. It took him awhile to finally pursue me, but he did, and get this; while he had multiple relationships over the years, I was the first girl he ever asked out!!! All other relationships had been started by the girls. Kind of neat, huh? :)



This Week: The Inner Life

Transforming our Decisions/Will



The Inner Life: Transforming our Decisions/Will

Romans 7:13-25

¹³Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

The Inner Life: Transforming our Decisions/Will

Romans 7:13-25

¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

The Inner Life: Transforming our Decisions/Will

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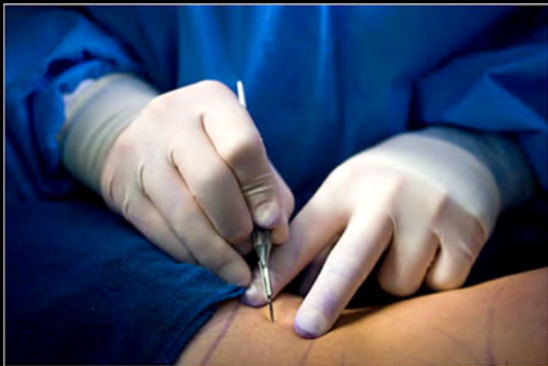
Sin: our mortal enemy

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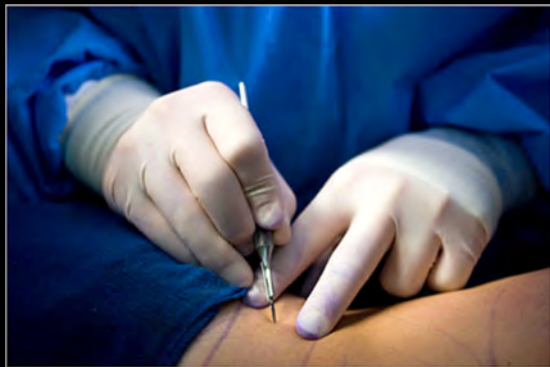


Have you come to see sin as sin?



Have you come to see sin as sin?

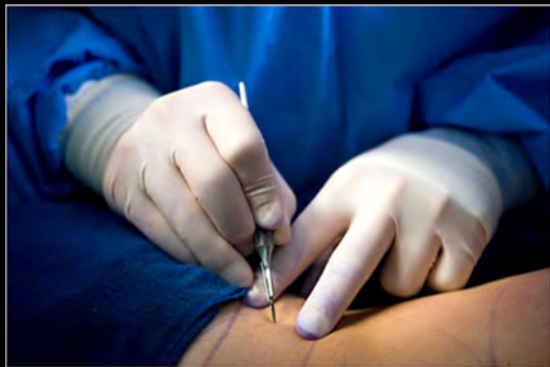
Do you agree that sin produces death?



Have you come to see sin as sin?

Do you agree that sin produces death?

Have you to come Jesus
so he might bear that sin?



The internal struggle

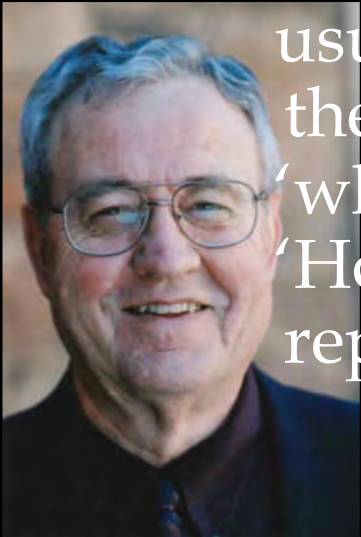
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The Precious (and Problematic) Will

Choice, the *exercise* of will, is valued and carefully guarded throughout life; and at the end of life we want to think we uniquely 'have made a difference' – always for good of course. But such an outcome is not automatically so – and certainly not so to the degree it could be and should be. For the human will in the individual is not only precious, it is a problem...Everyone has the experience of willing in a way that is contrary to other choices they have already made or ones that should be made. Human life in its usual forms is characterized by conflict within the will and between wills...The question, 'what good can I bring about?' is replaced by 'How can I get my way?' ...as exaltation of self replaces submission and service to God.



Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*

The Precious (and Problematic) Will

1. Being the center of attention
2. Being the life of the party
3. Being a star athlete
4. Being an A-student
5. Being immoral in varied ways
6. Being successful in the eyes of others
7. Being an over-the-hill athlete
8. Being an entertainment addict
9. Being an insatiable eater
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

“Evil lies close at hand!”

Romans 7:13-25

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Evil lies close at hand, but God lies closer!

2 Chronicles 16:9

“For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him.”

Evil lies close at hand, but
God lies closer!

Psalm 34:15

“The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous
and his ears toward their cry.”

“Thanks be to God!”

Romans 7:13-25

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“Thanks be to God!”

At the end of a life spent in the pursuit of knowledge Faust (character from a German legend) has to confess: ‘I now do see that we can nothing know.’ That is the answer to a sum, it is the outcome of a long experience. But as Kierkegaard observed, it is quite a different thing when a freshman comes up to the university and uses the same sentiment to justify his (habitual laziness)...The only man who has the right to say that he is justified by grace alone is the man who has left all to follow Christ. Such a man knows that the call to discipleship is a gift of grace, and that the call is inseparable from the grace. But those who try to use this grace as an (exemption) from following Christ are simply deceiving themselves.



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cost of Discipleship, 51

What's the best decision you've ever made?

The best decision I ever made was on 4/21/2000. I was a freshman in college and needed to make a decision about getting a dental implant, which would require a fourth bone graft, or getting a bridge, which would not last over time. I had already one failed attempt at the implant. Although this decision was not a big one in relation to eternity or exalting Christ, it has impacted my relationship with Christ and life in so many ways. On 4/21/00 as I was making the decision, God revealed to me Proverbs 3:3-8. The Spirit spoke to me-- "trust me- I will heal your bone." I took this as a promise and pursued the implant.

What's the best decision you've ever made?

This decision was a leap of faith. It was not an easy journey- the implant failed- I tried again and it was a huge success. The reason this was the best decision I ever made was that God continues to use it over and over and over in my life. Whenever I doubt God he brings this to mind. "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight..." He continues to make my paths straight as he teaches me to shun evil.

What's the best decision you've ever made?

So this was the last of the surgeries for my cleft- I had about 17 before this. A few years before this I had part of a bone graft fail, which is needed for the implant to work. When God showed me this promise I had made the decision to have the bone graft redone so I could get an implant--- I had to trust him that he would bring healing to my bones. So I went ahead with another bone graft and that worked. They then placed the implant. The implant failed. So then 3 months later they placed another one and it worked! So several bone grafts (4 to be exact) and 2 implant attempts later the promise was fulfilled. God has used it several times later to show me to trust him even when it doesn't make sense to me--- when I don't understand he is orchestrating the answer to lead me upon the narrow path. He has shown me that taking the easy way- listening to my feelings- is not the best decision in all situations- but rather leaning on him, trusting him will always results in the BEST DECISIONS OF MY LIFE!

“Thy will be done!”

Matthew 26:39

**“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me;
nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”**

“Thy will be done!”

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**“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me;
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Matthew 10:39

“Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

Is it your will
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