Life’s greatest victories and worst failures are often the result of personal choices, the crossroad catalysts of life. In making these momentous decisions, you reveal where your trust is placed . . . either in yourself or in God.

According to the Bible, there are significant consequences that result from choosing your own way instead of God’s way. For example, you are guaranteed foolishness when you choose your own natural wisdom (1 Corinthians 3:19), which inherently gravitates toward pride, coveting, and gratifying fleshly desires (1 John 2:16). You can expect deficiency when you ignore God’s ways and thoughts and, instead, choose your own perspective (Isaiah 55:8-9).

On the other hand, you can have God’s wisdom in any of life’s challenges (James 3:13-18). Divine wisdom is available through Jesus (Colossians 2:3), the Bible (Psalm 19:7), the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:13), and prayer (James 1:5). Because these sources are Truth, they will never contradict each other.

Since it is beneficial to follow God instead of self-oriented desires, why would anyone choose one’s own way over God’s way? Basically, this occurs because of two reasons . . . spiritual ignorance and willful disobedience.

Spiritual ignorance dominates the life of an unbeliever, a person who does not have eternal life through faith in Christ. An unbeliever is unable to understand the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14), so following self-oriented desires is a way of life.

A believer, on the other hand, has God’s sources of Divine Truth (Jesus, Holy Spirit, and the Bible) and, as a result, can know God’s ways. Having these Sources available and following them, however, are two different things. A believer may choose to disregard God’s truth for a time, choosing to follow one’s own way instead of following the Lord. When this occurs, one of the consequences is incomplete knowledge, or spiritual ignorance. In this condition, a believer will remain stunted spiritually unless God’s truth is diligently sought and obeyed.

The second reason that a believer chooses one’s own way instead of God’s way is willful disobedience. A believer who is aware of scriptural truth, but has a greater desire to live by feelings instead of by faith, will choose to sin (James 4:17). For a disobedient believer, knowing what to do in order to follow God’s way is not the issue . . . doing it certainly is.

Every person, at one time or another, has been ignorant of God’s ways or has willfully disobeyed God’s Truth. By God’s abundant grace and mercy, however, one can change by confessing one’s own sinfulness in order to follow the Lord. This can happen for an unbeliever (Romans 10:9-10) to begin a life of faith or a believer (1 John 1:9), to continue in a walk of faith. In every situation of life, God’s way is designed to bring Him glory and bring His followers the ultimate good (Romans 8:28). Will you choose your way or God’s way? It’s your choice.