

# THE PRESSURE OF CHOICE

NAVIGATING LIFE'S TOUGHEST DECISIONS



**EZEKIEL KEVIN ANNAN**  
THE PHOTOGRAPHER EVANGELIST

# **The Pressure of Choice**

*Navigating Life's Toughest Decisions*

**EZEKIEL KEVIN ANNAN**

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Kevin Annan, Ezekiel

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## **“The Pressure of Choice”**

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## **Dedication**

***To every young person***, navigating the exhilarating yet challenging journey of self-discovery and dreams. May you always seek wisdom and trust in God's plan for your life.

***To every youth***, standing at the crossroads of identity and purpose. May your choices be guided by faith, resilience, and a commitment to truth.

***To every adult***, facing the complexities of responsibility and ambition. May you find strength in God's sovereignty and peace in aligning your decisions with His will.

***To every single person***, embracing the season of independence and growth. May your journey be marked by clarity, intentionality, and the unwavering assurance of God's presence.

***To every married couple***, building a life of partnership and shared purpose. May your choices be rooted in love, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to God's guidance.

***Every parent*** is entrusted with the sacred role of nurturing the next generation. May your wisdom and decisions reflect God's grace and lead your family towards His divine purpose.

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***The Pressure of Choice***

## CHAPTER ONE

**The Gift and Burden of Free Will**

“

*Free will is a testament to God's love and trust in us. It allows us to experience life's fullness, love genuinely, and grow spiritually.*

***Introduction***

In the grand needlepoint of creation, one of the most weighty gifts bestowed upon humanity is the gift of free will. This divine endowment allows us to make choices, chart our paths, and shape our destinies. Yet, with this gift comes a significant burden—the responsibility to choose wisely. As we delve into the biblical foundation of free will, we will uncover the blessings and responsibilities accompanying this precious gift, drawing upon scriptural examples to illuminate the importance of making wise decisions.



## ***The Divine Design of Free Will***

From the very beginning, God designed humanity with the capacity to choose. In Genesis 2:16-17, we see God placing Adam in the Garden of Eden, giving him the freedom to eat from any tree except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This command was not merely a restriction but an invitation to exercise free will. Adam and Eve's choice to disobey God (**Genesis 3:6**) marked the first instance of human free will in action, setting the stage for the ongoing narrative of choice and consequence.

## ***The Blessings of Free Will***

Free will is a testament to God's love and trust in us. It allows us to experience life's fullness, love genuinely, and grow spiritually. Deuteronomy 30:19-20 presents a powerful call to choose life and blessings over death and curses. This passage underscores the blessings of aligning our choices with God's will. When we follow God's commandments, we open ourselves to His

abundant blessings and the joy of a life in harmony with His purposes.

### ***The Burden of Responsibility***

With the gift of free will comes the weighty responsibility to choose wisely. Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us to trust in the Lord and lean not on our understanding. Our choices have far-reaching consequences, not only for ourselves but for those around us. The story of King Saul in 1 Samuel 15 serves as a sobering reminder of the consequences of disobedience. Contrary to God's command, Saul's choice to spare King Agag and the best of the livestock led to his rejection as king. This narrative illustrates the critical importance of obedience and the heavy responsibility burden accompanying our choices.

### ***Seeking Divine Wisdom***

In our journey of making choices, we are not left to navigate alone. James 1:5 encourages us to seek divine wisdom, promising that God will generously provide it

to those who ask. The story of Solomon in 1 Kings 3:9-12 exemplifies the blessings of seeking God's wisdom. When Solomon asked for an understanding heart to judge God's people, God granted him unparalleled wisdom, along with riches and honour. This account highlights the importance of seeking God's guidance in our decision-making process.

### ***Conclusion***

As we reflect on the gift and burden of free will, let us remember that our choices matter. They shape our lives and impact those around us. By grounding our decisions in biblical principles and seeking God's wisdom, we can navigate the complexities of life with confidence and grace. May we embrace the gift of free will with gratitude, recognise the profound responsibility it entails, and strive to make choices that honour God and reflect His love.

**1. What does free will mean to you personally?**

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**2. Can you think of a time when you felt the weight of a significant decision? How did it affect you?**

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**3. How do you balance the freedom to choose with the responsibility that comes with it?**

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**4. In what ways can free will be considered both a gift and a burden?**

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**5. How do societal norms and expectations influence our free will?**

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**1. What role does fear play in your decision-making process?**

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**7. How do you feel when you think about the consequences of your choices?**

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**8. Can you identify any situations where you felt your free will was limited? How did you respond?**

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**9. Do you believe that certain choices define us more than others? Why or why not?**

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**10. How do you reconcile the idea of free will with the concept of fate or destiny?**

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