

The Heart Matters

The Significance of the Heart

For out of the heart proceed evil *thoughts*,
murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts,
false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:19)



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The Significance of the Heart

For out of the heart proceed evil **thoughts**,

deeds

←—————→
murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts,

words

←—————→
false witness, blasphemies.” (Matthew 15:19)



The Heart Matters:

The Sway of the Heart



Proverbs



4:23 Keep your **heart** with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life



6:14 Perversity is in his **heart**, he devises evil continually, he sows discord



12:25 Anxiety in the **heart** of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad



14:30 A sound **heart** is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones



15:13 A merry **heart** makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the **heart** the spirit is broken

The Heart Matters: *The Sway of the Heart*



Proverbs



16:9 A man's **heart** plans his way



16:23 The **heart** of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips



20:5 Counsel in the **heart** of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out



23:7 For as he thinks in his **heart**, so is he



27:19 As in water face reflects face, so a man's **heart** reveals the man.



For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13



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The Heart Matters

The Struggle of the Heart



But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

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Sin → Death

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A Deeper Look

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

A Deeper Look



You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to **lust** after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matthew 5:27-28)

Then, when **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:15)



Another Deeper Look

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. (Matthew 5:21-22)



Another Deeper Look

You **lust** and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. (James 4:2)

Then, when **desire** has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:15)



A Revelatory Statement:

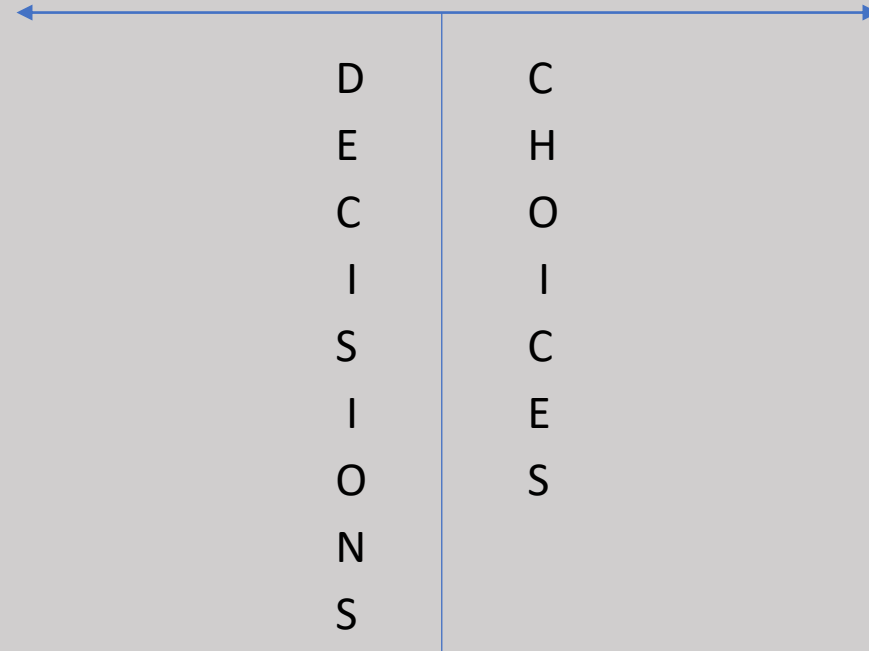
We think what we think, we *do* what we do, and we *say* what we say because of what we **WANT** in our heart!

**that those who live
should live no
longer for
themselves, but for
Him who died for
them and rose
again.**

(2 Corinthians 5:15)



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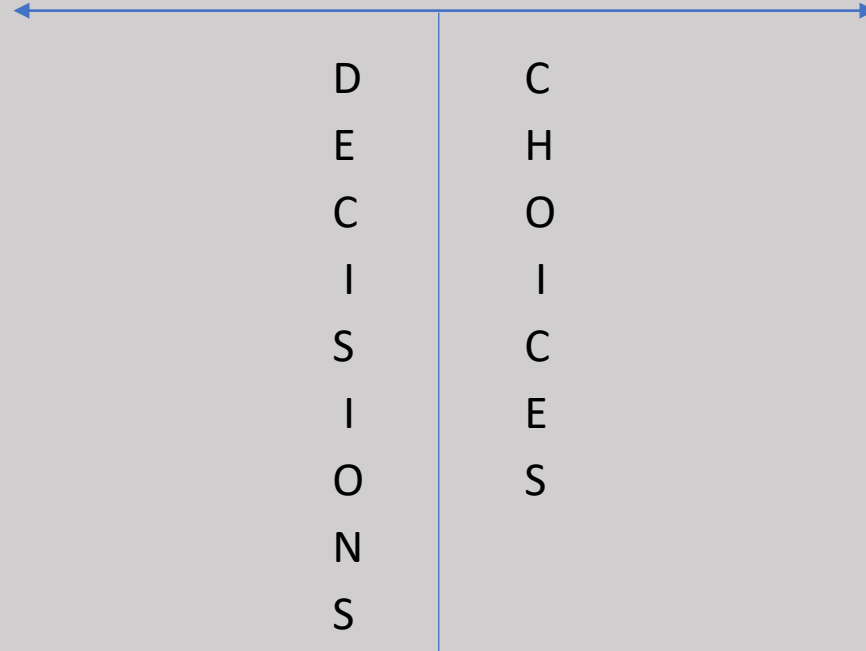
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Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'

Matthew 16:24

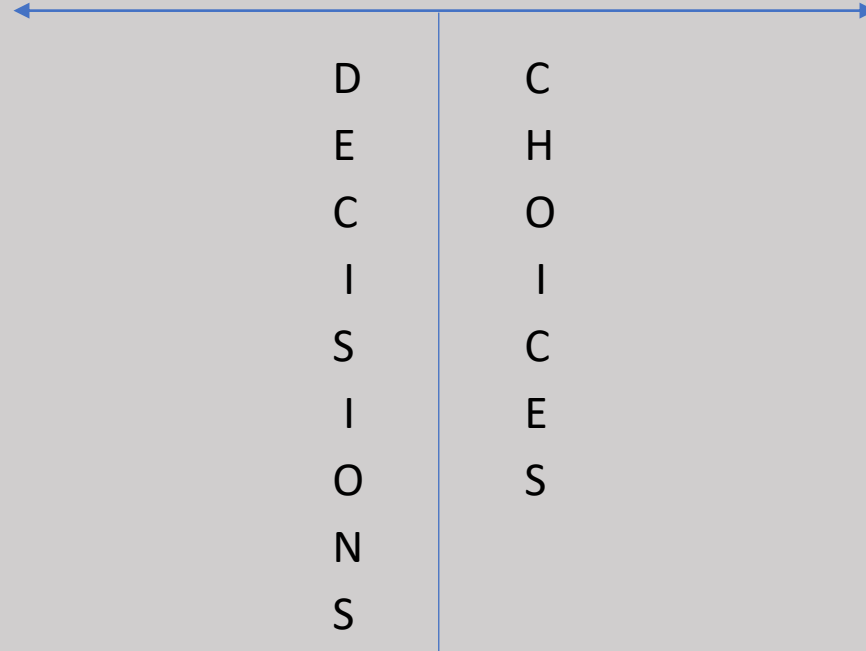
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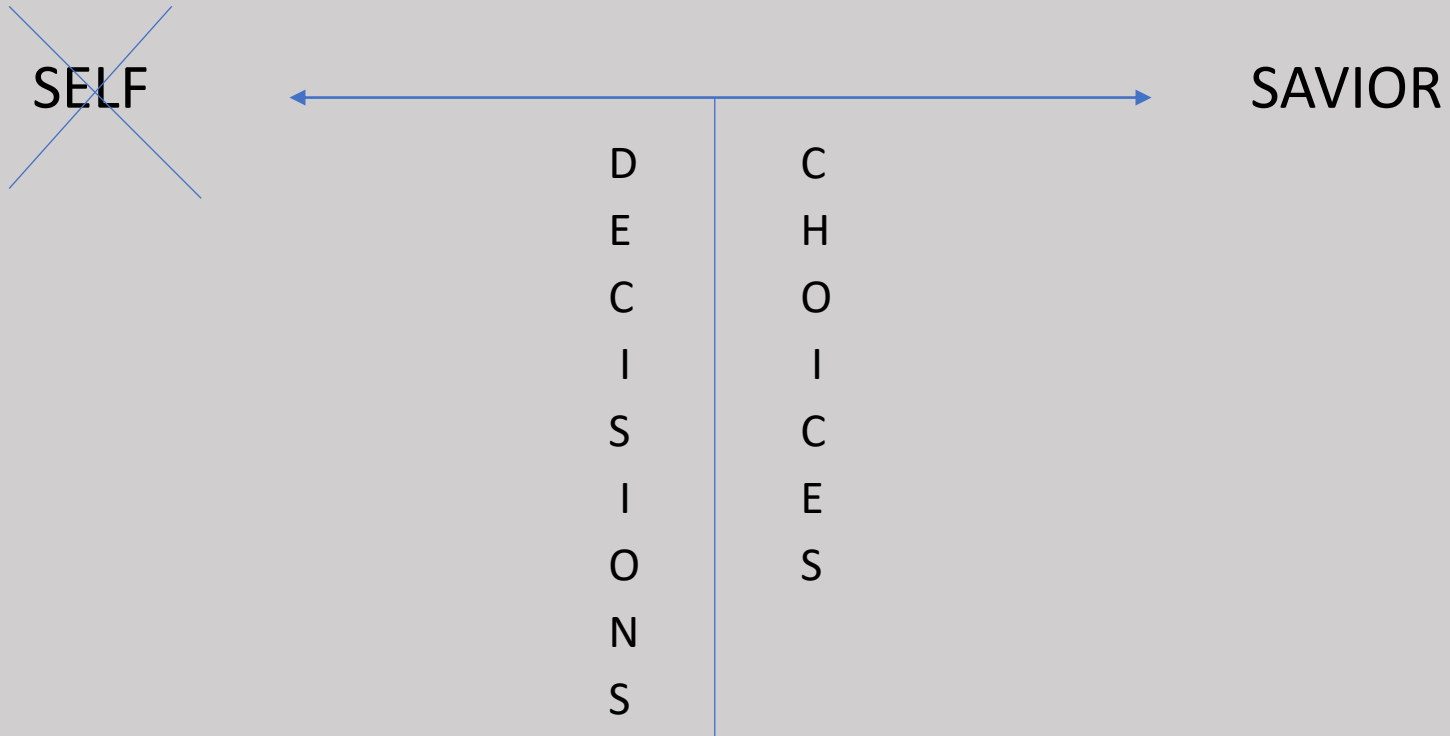
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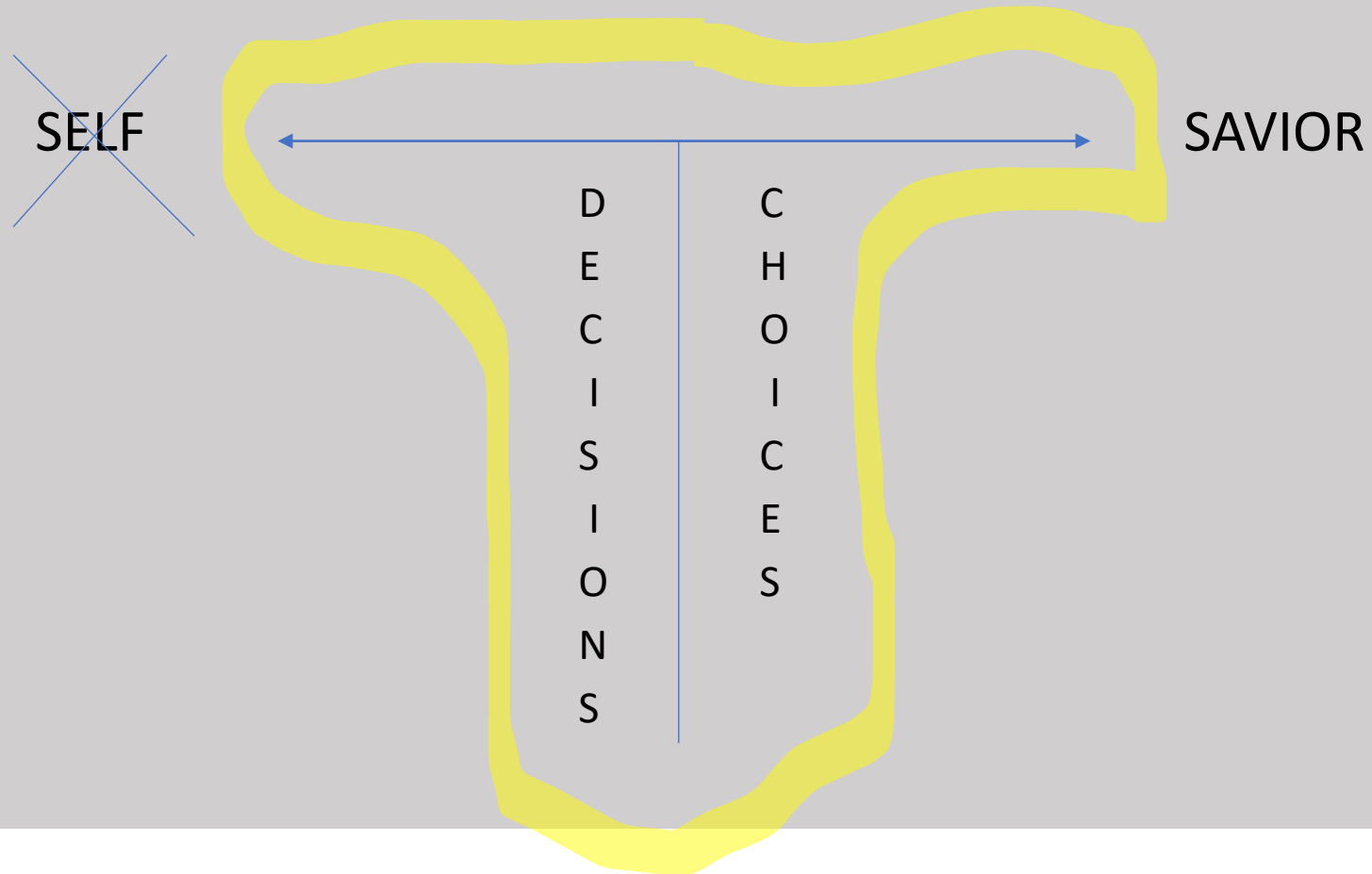
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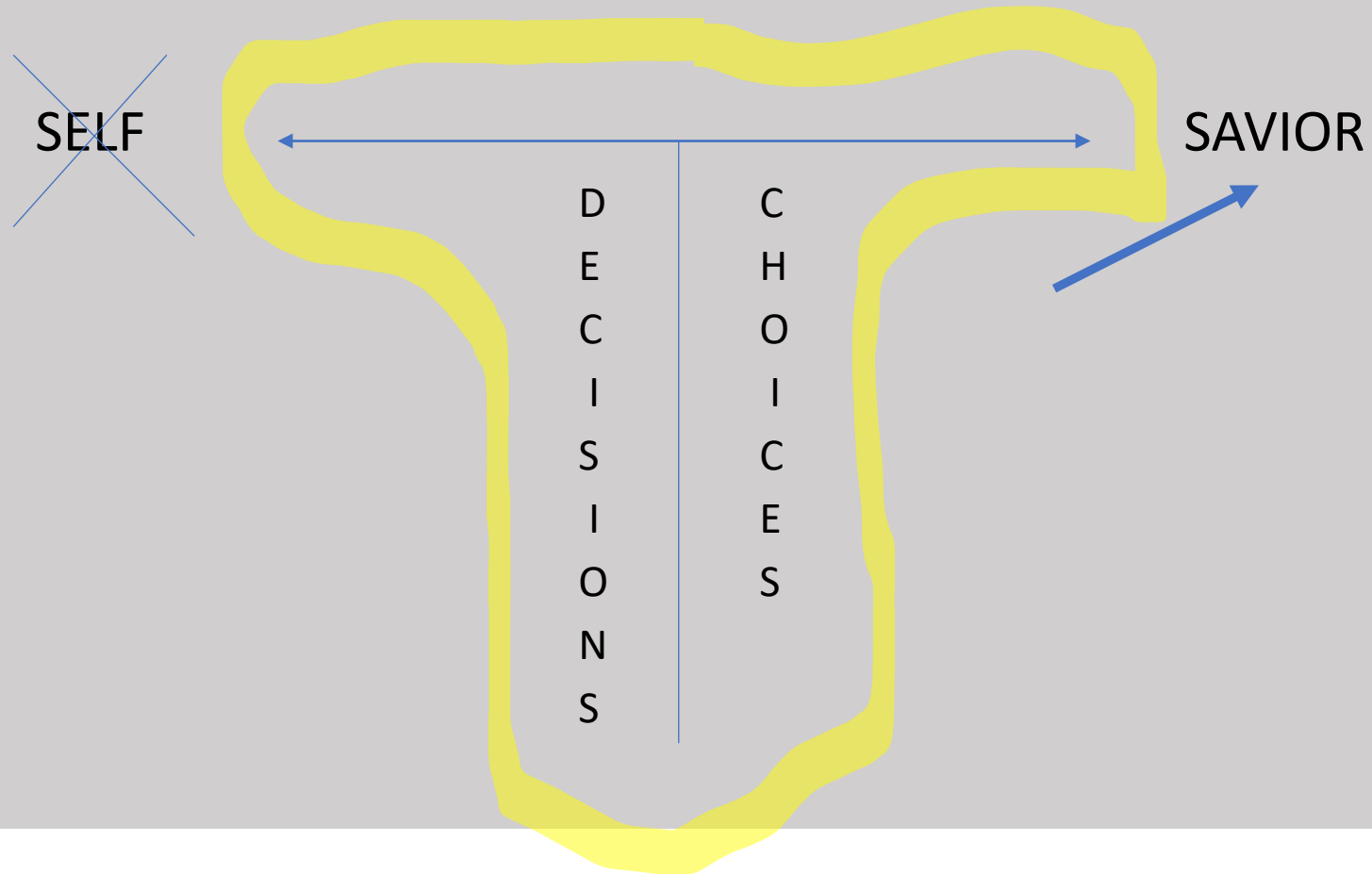
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The Goal of the Christian Life

For I always do those things that PLEASE HIM.” (John 8:29)

Our Real Struggle

“Where do wars
and fights come
from among you?
Do they not come
from your **desires**
for pleasure that
war **in your**
members?”

(James 4:1)





The Sorrow of Ruling Desires

And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (Genesis 6:6)



The Sorrow of Ruling Desires

And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. (Genesis 6:6)

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every intent of the thought of his heart** was only evil continually. (Genesis 6:5)

The First Ruling Desire of Man



So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree **desirable** to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. (Genesis 3:6)

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Was this a good or bad desire?

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. (Genesis 3:5)



A Word Study on Wrong Desires

Exodus 20:17

Joshua 7:21

Proverbs 1:22

Proverbs 6:25

Proverbs 12:12



A Word Study on Right Desires

Genesis 2:9

Psalms 19:10

Psalms 68:16

Proverbs 21:20

Song of Solomon 2:3

Isaiah 53:2



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So when the **woman** saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of the fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:6)

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Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him

Matthew 4:1-3a

Temptation #1 of Jesus

If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.
(Matthew 4:3b)

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Temptation #2 of Jesus

If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge concerning You,' and 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'

(Matthew 4:6-7)

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Temptation #3 of Jesus

All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.
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How
amazing!

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(Hebrews 4:15)

Facing temptation #1

Jesus: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

(Matthew 4:4)

Our Lord quotes Deuteronomy 8:3

Facing temptation #2

Jesus: It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.
(Matthew 4:7)

Our Lord quotes Deuteronomy 6:16

Facing temptation #3

Jesus: For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

(Matthew 4:10)

Our Lord quotes Deuteronomy 6:13

Our
response?

Always but always:

the
Word
of
God

The
Grand
Announcement

This is my beloved Son, in whom
I am **well pleased**.
(Matthew 3:17)



The Struggle

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Galatians 5:17



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The Hope

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24



The Hope

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and **desires**.

Galatians 5:24