

February 9, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

THE CHOICE

By Julie Mussché

"We are getting used to it. We are accustomed to evil. We are surrendering to that which we call inevitable. This is fatalism; it is pagan...Choose life."

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL

Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity. "Choose Life," 251

Reflection

The above quotation is reprinted from an article published in *Jubilee* (vol. 13, no. 9, January 1966). It was written during a tumultuous time in the midst of the Civil Rights and anti-war movements, and Heschel offers a context of moral implication in relation to the time. He also resounds a hopeful tenor in light of the growing ecumenical movement growing out of Vatican II, which he

exclaims as unifying and “...one of the greatest consolations of our time” (255). Ultimately, the message is a call for peace and for each person to embrace their moral authority.

Within the title and content of the essay is the scripture reference to choosing life:

“See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life...”

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-16;19

These words precede the entry of the Israelites into the Promised Land with the exhortation by Moses to remain faithful to the covenant with God. Rendering that covenant down to the essence: love God and love each other. One such buttressing command, that one shall not kill, if not kept, might lead one away from Godly ways.

Undoubtedly, there is evil lurking in our midst in the form of gun violence. Even today, as this is being written, another gun battle has occurred. Since the start of the year, there have been nearly forty mass shootings across the United States. The U.S. significantly dominates the world in regard to gun related deaths. Some pundits have speculated that, as a nation, we have become numb to the violence; mass shootings, suicides, hate crimes, gang-related violence, police violence, all of it is overwhelming. Have we become accustomed to and surrendered to evil? What is our covenantal obligation as a Godly people? Recognizing that God has offered us a choice, have we chosen life?



Ponderings

- The Abrahamic religions are covenantal. What is the meaning of that for you?
 - What are some ways you choose life through your covenant with God and God's people?
-

Reflective Considerations

You are invited to consider and reflect on the following two quotes from Rabbi Nachman of Breslov:

“If you believe breaking is possible, believe fixing is possible.”

“Let the good in me connect with the good in others, until all the world is transformed through the compelling power of love.”

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

[Support Us Here](#)



Center for Spiritual Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

(714) 744-
3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 (714) 744-3175

[Unsubscribe knuernberg@csjorange.org](mailto:knuernberg@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org