Choice Overload!

Recently, one of our board members quoted this statement from AW Tozer: “Every man must choose his world.” In that particular board meeting, we were deliberating over different options that would allow us to serve our targeted audience better. With so many good options out there – our first step was to more clearly define our calling so we could make the right choices for those we feel most called to serve. We had to “choose our world”.

You’ve probably heard it’s a good thing to consider all the options. That advice can drag you down a rabbit hole when your time and energy could be better spent on serving others. As Christians, some of our choices are more obvious than others. “Thou shalt not murder” is pretty clear in the Bible – no need to deliberate over that one! But so many are left up to us and lead to choice overload. Some options should be ruled out if they don’t belong in “your world”.

There is a direct correlation between the choices we make and the fulfillment of God’s promises in our lives. “Seek you first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33) Entertaining too many options, especially those that do not line up with your calling and values, can prevent you from receiving God’s best and lead to:

* Ineffectiveness
* Wasting time
* Anxiety/depression
* Comparison
* Unfulfilled promises

Here are some things you can do to avoid choice overload:

1. Define your world: Ask yourself questions that will shape

* What do I value most?
* How will I spend my time?
* What is best for my body/health?
* Who do I let influence me?

2. What choice boundaries do we need to put in place to set yourself up to receive God’s promises? In my world - my children’s clothes need to match. When my oldest was about 6 - He was wearing an atrocious combination to school that he picked out. When I asked him to go change and put on something that matched, I found him on the phone with his dad (who was already at work) pleading “can you come home and tell mom things don’t have to match?” What he wanted was his choice to choose - so I put clothing sets in his drawer for him to choose from but he had to choose the whole set. That’s a choice boundary I gave him that actually worked. You may be pleased to know that I’ve gotten over my “matchy matchy” thing and now value “creative expression” in my world.

3. Ask God what promises He has for you

Create choice boundaries

Watch for promises revealed.

For example: how much time should I spend on social media? Who will I allow to speak into my life? What cause(s) will I support?