

Lecture III:
Choosing Your Destiny
ἮΣΩΤΠ ἸΤΕ ΤΕΚΤΟΙ

“Now the just shall live by faith.” (Hebrews 10:38)

Cyprian (c. 250) believed, *“The Kingdom of God is not in the wisdom of the world, or in eloquence, but in the faith of the Cross and in virtue of living.”*

His Holiness Pope Shenouda III teaches us that it is necessary to have a personal relationship with God or there is no need to have faith in God. This personal relationship with God leads us to love and obey God. It begins a fellowship here on earth, and is continued in the Eternal Kingdom. When ready then to determine your destiny a personal relationship with the Lord should exist.

Choosing Your Destiny should in addition to your personal relationship with God, incorporate the way which suits man spiritually. While we give the mind its due respect and worth as having distinguished man from animal, the mind has its limits and cannot think more highly than it ought to think (Romans 12:3). Matters which are beyond comprehension have to be accepted by faith. The mind may lead you to choose your destiny, but faith through your personal relationship with God will lead you toward the Eternal Life.

Whether one selects consecration, marriage or monasticism to take the spiritual journey, faith is needed. When a true believer has his behavior in complete accordance with his faith and there is no and good works. Good works should accompany **Choosing Your Destiny**. The Apostle taught contraindication between his conduct and his beliefs he is ready to begin making choices regarding his destiny. A living faith becomes a working faith, a more mature faith unfolding.

St. Paul teaches about faith, *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). Along with the choice of a destiny must come a realization that the choice must be filled with good works and consideration of this should take high priority when determining a life’s destiny. Can good works be produced within the destiny selected? Will the good works bring joy and thanksgiving?

The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed in the Holy Book of Revelation, *“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work”* (Revelation 22:12). Certainly a working faith is seen as a necessary outcome of the destiny determination.

Where may I be qualified to best serve the Lord and use the talents He has given me? Within what choice may I grow stronger and more productive in producing good and plentiful works in His Holy service? These are questions you may ask yourself along with examining your constitution, needs for emotional support and need for spiritual growth and guidance when making your selection.

If a person does not feel completeness in God *first* nothing within his future choices regarding his destiny will substitute this and make him complete (i.e. consecration, marriage and monasticism).

Finally, while taking your journey remember there is no security in this earthly life but there is opportunity. *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him”* (Romans 8:28).

*Lecture synopsis adapted from ‘Paradise of the Spirit’ (vol.3) by His Grace the late Bishop Youanis.

