THE POWER OF CHOICE

The Book of Genesis

Read Genesis 25:27-34. Scripture introduces Esau and Jacob as very different men. Their differences were not moral failures in themselves, but expressions of distinct personalities. God creates people with variety - different temperaments, strengths, interests, and callings. Even within the same family, children can be profoundly different from one another and from their parents. Personality is part of God's good design, meant to draw people into community where strengths are shared, weaknesses are mitigated, and wisdom is gained through relationship. We do well to celebrate these differences and give thanks for the way God weaves diversity into His purposes.

But personality is not destiny! Both brothers made choices within their God-given dispositions. Jacob was indeed a manipulator, but he was also spiritually perceptive. He valued the birthright *(God's covenant blessing)*, and over time he grew in faith, humility, and dependence on God. Esau, by contrast, was energetic and hardworking, but Scripture later describes him as "immoral and godless" *(Hebrews 12:16)*. His failure was not that he was impulsive by nature, but that he repeatedly chose appetite over promise. Character is shaped not by temperament alone, but by the decisions we make before God.

In a moment of hunger, Esau traded his birthright for a single meal. He satisfied a temporary craving without regard for the lasting inheritance he was surrendering. Scripture consistently warns against such shortsighted living. Jesus teaches, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth… but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven" *(Matthew 6:19-20)*. And He exhorts His disciples that life is more than food an clothing - that we aren't to be consumed by earthly anxieties, but to seek God's kingdom first *(Luke 12:22-34)*. This life, with all its pressures and pleasures, is fleeting. To live only for the moment is to trade eternity for a bowl of stew.

For Christians, this passage calls us to evaluate our desires and choices in light of God's promises in Christ. We are heirs of an eternal inheritance, secured not by appetite or ambition, but by faith. The daily challenge of discipleship is to choose what honors God rather than what merely satisfies us now. When desires are shaped by godly wisdom instead of worldly craving, faith matures and hope deepens.

Prayerfully consider the following: Where might your personality strengths also expose you to particular temptations? What short-term desires threaten to distract you from God's long-term promises? What spiritual disciplines might aid you in cultivating God-honoring choices?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"Arise, walk about in the land
through its length and width;
for I will give it to you."
Genesis 13:17

Weekly Affirmation:

I Choose Faith Today, With Forever in Mind

JANUARY 2026 GROWTH GOALS

- ○ Read the Book of Genesis
- ○ Watch the Bible Project video on Genesis *(available on the website)*.
- ○ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ○ Each day intentionally place one specific worry or decision in God's hands through prayer.