

Protips Weekly Volume 12 April 26 - May 1, 2007

What Protips Listeners Say...

good day po! im esthephanie vergara, 19 yrs old po. I'm an all time listener of FEBC. maaga po akong nagigising kaya nakakapakinig po ako ng "protips". Nagustuhan ko po yung topic ninyo about, "How to Manage Our Tongue?" Sana po mabigyan ninyo ako ng kopya nito. Salamat po ng marami!!! GOD BLESS PO SA INYO AT SA FEBC :)

I am an avid listener of DZAS especially "Oras Na". One of the reasons is "Protips". I would like to request for copies of your featured stories - "12 Things Every Filipino Should Do" and "5 Life Altering Choices." Thank you very much and more power and blessings! - Rose Dejh

I really praise and thank God for the Pro-tips you are sharing every morning on DZAS. It's very useful to me so I'm sharing it with my officemates and even with my Japanese superiors . They also appreciate the tips. - Sheryl Hintay

The Power to Choose by Maloi Malibiran-Salumbides

Life is all about choices. Do you realize that everyday we make dozens of decisions and tons of choices? We choose the clothes we wear, the food we eat, what cab to ride in, what radio station to listen to or television program to watch. From the simplest to the most complex issues of life, the truth is, we have a choice. This power to choose is our God-given free will.

And so, to blame others for the lot that we may be enduring would be an exercise in futility because a huge percentage of who we are now and the life we now live is a consequence of the choices we make. A pastor once said, "It is not sin to be born poor but to die poor is your own doing."

There are many choices that we need to make in life. Some are trivial and do not require much thinking. But others can deeply impact our lives and should therefore be given a great deal of consideration and thought.

Let's look at five life altering choices that almost all of us will have to face. Choices that could very well build or break us depending on the path that we decide to take.

1) Choose to Worship God

"Do not worship any other gods besides me" (Exodus 20:3).

Our choice to obey the first of the 10 commandments would define how we would deal with the rest of God's laws. The choice to worship God with all our heart, soul and mind will influence all other interactions that we will nurture and cultivate in life. Our vertical relationship with God directly affects our horizontal relationships with others. If we choose to worship the one, true God, it is implied that we are also choosing to live according to His ways and will.

Choosing to surrender to the lordship of Jesus Christ is the most life-altering decision that one could ever make. It changes our present and alters our eternity. Darkness is replaced with light. Bondage turns to freedom. Bitterness transforms into joy. Despair becomes hope. Death is conquered by life. All these changes become possible by choosing to worship God.

2) Choose to Marry Right

"This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." Matthew 19:5

Next to choosing Jesus as Lord and Savior of our lives, the decision of who and when to marry is probably the second most life altering choice that a person could make. Marriage brings to unity what were once two unrelated families. When we get married, it is not just our civil status that changes, even our loyalties, priorities and responsibilities are altered. The choice of a husband or a wife could spell blessing or disaster to an individual. Marry the right person at the right time and you can expect to reap a lifetime of happiness. Marry the wrong person at the wrong time and see what unnecessary difficulties you'll have to weather.

Marriage is a choice. It is also a gift. Choose wisely the person you will commit to love for a lifetime and you will most certainly enjoy that gift.

3) Choose to Pursue a Career

"Why do people waste their time with futile plans?" (Psalm 2:1)

Another choice that radically affects our lives is our choice of careers to pursue. Some people spend a large chunk of their lives trying to figure out what they were born to do. They shift from one course to another, hoping to discover where they are good at and what career could give them fulfillment. Not understanding what they are cut to do, they punch in precious hours on jobs that undermine their potentials and capacity for excellence.

At age thirty-three, Jesus had already fulfilled his destiny. He knew his life's purpose and pursued it relentlessly. There were tempting offers to shortcut his sufferings. He could've been rich, famous and powerful according to the world's

standards. But Jesus knew that He was born to suffer and die on the cross and demonstrate God's power over sin and death through His resurrection. This was His career. This was His calling. And He chose to take tread that difficult path without regrets.

4) Choose to Forgive

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."
(Matthew 6:14-15)

Would you agree that the size of your world largely depends on your choice to forgive those who have offended you? When we opt to withhold forgiveness, our world shrinks into a prison cell. We change our routes and routines so that we won't bump into people we are in conflict with. Unforgiveness burns bridges and fortifies walls. When we choose to hold a grudge against someone, we allow our relationship with that person to wither and even die.

Choosing the path of forgiveness allows us to experience grace and peace. Forgiveness alters hostility to gentleness. Conflict is inevitable but having enemies is a choice because we can choose to let go of our anger through forgiveness.

5) Choose to Submit to your Leaders

"Remind your people to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good." Titus 3:1

Another choice that alters not just one life but also the future of an entire nation is our choice of leadership. God's word reminds us to submit to our leaders. The good thing about democracy is that, we are also given the power to elect the leaders we will submit to.

Once in every three years, we have the opportunity to exercise our right to vote for our national officials. Our collective choices can put in positions of authority men and women who are God-fearing, committed to serve the nation's and not their own interests, and worthy of being called representatives and servants of the people.

Like the other life-altering choices discussed previously, our choice of people who will lead and chart the course of our country should never be taken lightly.

God gave us the power to choose. Some may have more options than the rest but nonetheless, all of us have choices. So choose well. Discriminate between the good and the great. Know when to say "yes" and exercise your right to say "no". A life well lived is a life marked with wise choices.

A Must-Read, Must-Have, Must Give and Must-Do Book

Alex Lacson's little orange book entitled "*12 Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country*" is a must-read, must-have, must-give and must-do for Filipino professionals who are seriously desiring to make a difference in the country even in their own little way.

What are the twelve little things that we can do to help our country? Here is Atty. Lacson's list:

1. Follow traffic rules. Follow the law.
2. Whenever you buy or pay for anything, always ask for an official receipt.
3. Don't buy smuggled goods. Buy local. Buy Filipino.
4. When you talk to others, especially foreigners, speak positively about us and our country.
5. Respect your traffic officer, policeman and soldier.
6. Do not litter. Dispose your garbage properly. Segregate. Recycle. Conserve.
7. Support your church.
8. During elections, do your solemn duty.
9. Pay your employees well.
10. Pay your taxes.
11. Adopt a scholar or a poor child.
12. Be a good parent. Teach your kids to follow the law and love our country.

Serve the Lord in the Workplace

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). My daughter Bea happily waved her prize as she recited this memory verse from their daily vacation Bible school class.

Serving the Lord need not be confined to going to church or being involved in ministry. Serving the Lord as a family and as individuals should be a daily thing.

Our work in our offices can be our service to the Lord. How? Here are a few suggestions:

Seek to glorify God through your work. Viewing work as an opportunity to glorify God will radically change the way we do things in the office and deal with our workmates. Constantly bear in mind that God is present in your place of work. He is your ultimate boss!

Excel because we have an excellent God. Let your work reflect the excellence of your Creator. Everything that God made is good. The work of our hands should, likewise speak of the amazing talent and skills that God entrusted to us.

Reach out to others and share your faith. I hope that none of us are undercover believers - meaning, people only realize that we are followers of Jesus when they bump into us in church. May our light shine brightly in our offices. When our colleagues feel down, may we be at the top of their list as their confidante or counselor because we also have a godly advice to share. Offer to pray for your co-workers or even boss. Organize a lunch break Bible study for those who are interested. Reach out to others. Be a visible Christian in your place of work.

Value the things that God values. When people ask you about your priorities and values, will they see that you value what God values? Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision, said, "Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

Exercise the fruit of the Spirit in your daily walk and talk. And what is the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22 says - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.