



**FourFoundations.org**

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## The “Do Over”

Do you remember the infamous “do over” as a child? I do. When my brothers and I would play baseball or football with the neighborhood kids the “do over” would come up at least once a game. What an amazing piece of cooperation and compromise it was. Whenever there was significant disagreement about whether the runner was out at first base; whether or not the tag was in time or the runner was safe, the “do over” rule was offered and accepted at just the right time to restore peace to the situation. With the “Do over” agreed upon and in force, the play would be repeated; the batter given another chance to hit. Whatever the outcome of the “Do Over,” the results were accepted, the game continued and the disagreement was soon forgotten. Now that I have grown, there are many times I wish I could have called for a “Do Over.” But in adult life, the ramifications of our personal choices seem to echo through the rest of our lives

## Choices

I was anticipating my 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The discussions about my family party were done and as was tradition in our family, I had chosen my birthday cake. I had given my birthday list to my mom and dad, grandparents, aunts and uncles. I was excited. However, a week before my party, I happened upon my gifts. Looking for something else one afternoon, high up in one of our closets, I accidentally discovered several of my birthday presents, unwrapped. I quickly realized what they were, looked them over and left the scene before I was caught making my discovery. Unable to contain my excitement and the temptation of discovering more of my presents, I returned each day to sneak another peak at my gifts. (See next page)

(From page 1)

As the odds would have it, I got caught. Standing on a chair with two of the gifts in my hands, head high in the closet looking for more, my mom rounded the corner and caught me. Oh the shame and embarrassment. After I got down off the chair, my mom calmly reached up into the closet and took my unwrapped gifts and handed them to me. I was informed since I had seen the gifts and knew what they were, there wasn't a need to wrap them and I would get them now. She walked away and I would not hear about it again. I would not have a wrapped present to open on my birthday. I didn't get a "Do Over" nor have I looked for my birthday presents since that day.

### Reset Button

While this example is minor in its consequences, there are other choices we make that have deeper ramifications. Choices that break apart a marriage, tear apart a family, cause us to lose our job or cause someone else pain. But there is hope for us all. We have been given the choice of hitting the "reset" button on our lives and getting a "Do Over".

Romans 10 v 9-10: *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."*

God has given us the chance at a "Do Over." What would that feel like to you? If all of the wrong choices you have made would be washed away? Knowing the sins of your past could be forgiven and forgotten?

### Misconception

I have encountered many who struggle with the idea of "Good" and "Good Choices." I was no different. There was a time when I believed if I just tried to "be good" to make "good" choices in life that God would still love me and I would make my way to heaven when I died. It wasn't until I was introduced to this



verse, that I realized I was both "right and wrong." I had a misconception about what it took to get to heaven and God's love. On one hand, I was correct in presuming God loved me. None of my choices will affect that truth. God may not like my choices, but I am assured of his love. I was "wrong" about getting to heaven.

Ephesians 2 v 8-10: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves is the gift of God—not by works [good deeds], so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Our choice to do "good" is natural and it is pleasing to God. Our chance at a "Do Over" is our choice to make. If you want to make that choice today you need only invite Jesus into your life, accept him as your Lord and Savior and acknowledge your past is gone. Agree that you are a new creation and seek to live your new life to please Him. In Jesus Name- Amen

**"FourFoundations.org was founded to guide individuals and households to make Christ-centered choices in life. Successful households are built on Four Foundations: Faith, Family, Finances and Fidelity."**