

SELAH: (SE LAH) N. PAUSE THINK ON THIS

D E V O T I O N



## COUNT UP THE COST

There it comes again—another opportunity to do something that will likely make you look good or give you some sort of “star” status. But right along with that opportunity is a nudging on the inside to resist—to back off.

Why is that?

It’s because as a born-again believer you have the mind of Christ. You have the Holy Spirit on the inside to help you recognize right from wrong and make right decisions.

Being a Christian does not exempt you from having normal thoughts and feelings, or desiring to do things that may benefit you. But God does not identify with normal or carnal thoughts and feelings. First John 2:16 says, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

With every decision you make you are shaping your future. Also, what you do is a reflection of who you are. As a believer, you have God’s spirit on the inside. That means your thoughts, actions and deeds should always line up with Him and His Word.

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death.” The Message Bible is clearer on the matter: “Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death.”

Whenever you’re faced with a decision, don’t act hastily. Take time to think about the outcome. Ask yourself: Will what I do help or hurt? Will it build up, or will it tear down? God expects you to know right from wrong and He is counting on you to always make the right decision.

Proverbs 16:25 says, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Your decision may seem like the right one, but only God knows what’s best. Trust Him to show you what to do. He’ll never mislead you.

By Ronald C. Jordan