

# CrossWords

An Inspirational Message

**Exodus 13:17-22**



## Decisions, Decisions

There are three unanswered questions that have stumped me.

1. Where did God come from?
2. How far is space?
3. How much of our lives is predetermined or beyond our control?

The first two questions do not need to be answered in order to have peace. I am resigned to the fact that in this lifetime I will never know. The third one however, is always churning in my mind. Clearly, we are not able to wish all things into fruition. Our plans frequently get detoured and life often turns on a dime. It appears that there is a greater force operating our world and it seems to have the power to override our free will. Perhaps on a soul level we have chosen these things to happen, perhaps we even made these agreements with God before coming into this existence, but that doesn't give us much peace when we are faced with an unexpected and unwanted event. Once again, it seems we are asking an answerable question. But in this case it is not a futile one.

Regardless of why things happen, we are given the opportunity to decide how we are going to navigate through these detours. We can lose hope. It is always an option. We can become bitter; that is a choice too. We can get depressed, lethargic, angry, fearful, jealous, or hateful. Free will allows all of these.

Or...

We can decide to look for glimpses of light in the darkness. We can decide to be grateful for the people who are there to help us. We can notice the outpouring of love from those who walk beside us and feel our pain. We can rely on others who have been there and done that and have come out on the other side stronger and wiser. We can take control of how peaceful or miserable we want to be even though we travel a difficult road.

The question then, becomes, "How can I turn this over to the One with almighty power so that I can be free to choose joy?"

This is the exodus we seek. The way from where we are to where we want to be. It may lead us in a round about way, but taking the road to peace is always a decision.

*Come visit us at First Christian Church, we talk about things like that.*