

## Decisions

Early on the morning of December 7, 1941, a radar (*radio detection and ranging*) operator in Honolulu noticed unusual blips on his screen. At the time, radar was a new technology, and the objects on the screen were mistaken for U.S. planes scheduled to return from California. As it turned out, the blips were Japanese aircraft headed for Pearl Harbor. The rest of the story is history!

The sum total of the daily decisions we make determines the direction of our lives. Often these decisions also influence the lives of countless others. As parents, we make the most important decisions for our children while they are young. Eventually this decision-making responsibility transitions to our children. Ultimately, our goal as parents is that our grown children will be responsible adults who make good decisions—God-honoring decisions beneficial for them and for others.

In his book *Decision Points*, former president George W. Bush writes about the many important decisions he made while serving two terms in the White House. The greatest presidents in history were faithful leaders who made difficult decisions in the face of adversity. And President Bush is one of them! He writes,

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, I awoke before dawn in my suite at the Colony Beach and Tennis Resort near Sarasota, Florida. I started the morning by reading the Bible and then went downstairs for a run. It was pitch black as I began my jog around the golf course.... Shortly after the PDB [Presidential Daily Briefing], we left for a visit to Emma E. Booker Elementary School to highlight education reform. On the short walk from the motorcade to the classroom, Karl Rove mentioned that an airplane had crashed into the World Trade Center. (2010, 126)

Then, during a visit with students in one of the elementary school classrooms, Andy Card whispered in the president's ear that another plane had hit the second tower. Card said, "America is under attack" (Bush 2010, 127).

Decisions. For President Bush, many needed to be made in the wake of this unprovoked terrorist attack, which took thousands of innocent lives on American soil. He explained his conviction to lead as Roosevelt and Reagan had, writing that he had decided to

"lead the public, not chase opinion polls, and to push for sweeping reforms, not tinker with the status quo" (Bush 2010, 272).

President Bush made an important decision when he decided to remove Saddam Hussein from power. Reflecting on his decision to attack Iraq, defeat Saddam, and bring democracy to the Iraqi people, President Bush writes, "I strongly believe that removing Saddam from power was the right decision" (2010, 267). I agree. I believe that history will remember a president with the courage and resolve to protect America from repeat attacks via the many difficult decisions he had the faith and courage to make after 9/11.


Decisions are a vital part of the fabric of life, and the decisions leaders make have profound influence on others' lives. The Creator entrusts parents with the care of His children. As His stewards parents make one of the most important decisions when they choose where to send their children to school during those formative years, when children hopefully learn to make good decisions on their own.

For my wife, Bonnie, and me, this was a clear decision with regard to our four children. We sent all of them to Christian schools and universities, because we wanted them to be thoroughly prepared to live as sold-out, full-throttle disciples of Jesus Christ and decided that these schools provided the best means to accomplish this goal.

We are involved in a great spiritual battle for the minds and souls of our children. We as parents are the leaders God has appointed to prepare them for this life and the next. There are signs of danger on the cultural horizon. Will you be like those in charge of the radar equipment on that fateful 1941 morning by minimizing these danger signs, or will you be like George W. Bush after 9/11 by making decisions to protect your children and provide opportunity for them to be freed from the grip of a secular culture? The choice is up to you!

### Reference

Bush, George W. 2010. *Decision points*. New York: Crown.

  
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