



# DR. THOMAS HILL

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### MY JOURNEY FROM 2024 to 2025 This Month is about DECISIONS!

*Ralph Waldo Emerson, famously said, “OUR GREATEST GLORY IS NOT IN NEVER FAILING, BUT IN RISING EVERY TIME WE FAIL”.*

Our decisions to choose, to get back up from a failure, separate winners from losers, from choices to remain employed, shackled to a mundane, routine organization, employer, or task, or having the courage to start your own business, regardless of the business model.

***Spiritually***, Moses told the Israelites, (and us today), to CHOOSE “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life so that you and your descendants might live”, (New Living Translation, the Bible).

***Philosophically***, in Emerson’s Essay- “Self-reliance” he shares some key points with which one may agree or disagree states:

- **Urges** his readers to follow their individual will instead of conforming to social expectations.
- **Emphasizes** following one’s own voice rather than an intermediary’s, such as the Church.
- **He encourages** his readers to be honest in their relationships with others.
- **Posts** the effects of self-reliance: altering religious practices, encouraging Americans to stay home and develop their own culture, and focusing on individual rather than societal progress.
- **Merriam-Webster** defines self-reliance as ‘Reliance on one’s own efforts and abilities.’ In broader contexts, self-reliance can be viewed as an individual’s confidence in their capacity to manage their own life, make their own decisions, and provide for themselves without excessively depending on others. This concept is often celebrated in various cultures and philosophies for fostering independence, resilience, and personal growth” (www.emersoncentral.com, electronic source).

So, has this perspective of this newsletter helped or hindered your decision to move? How will you focus on those consequences fear or faith, life or death, good or evil?

***In the poem by Rudyard Kipling, “IF”***, perhaps one could use the courage from these words to help decide the road chosen.

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IF-By [Rudyard Kipling](#).

*(‘Brother Square-Toes’—Rewards and Fairies)*

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,  
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: ‘Hold on!’

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

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Source: A Choice of Kipling's Verse (1943)

<https://www.perplexity.ai/search/what-is-introspective-572b9FBpS1SrmNkWFF.mAg>