

Do we always get to choose?

By Jeff Davidson

The book and accompanying DVD called *The Secret* are making the rounds these days. While much of *The Secret* is valid, and the Law of Attraction is a viable concept for daily life, the notion that everyone always chooses their level of health or well-being bears scrutiny. A few issues back I discussed personal habits we can all adopt to improve our health. It is vital to recognize, however, that **some people are born with predispositions to certain illnesses.** Also viruses exist and on this planet living in a vacuum is not an option.

Some people fall ill for reasons far beyond their control. Historian and tennis great Arthur Ashe did not "choose" to get AIDS and die at 47, leaving a wife and young daughter; he contracted the virus that causes AIDS from a blood transfusion during heart surgery.

The author of *The Secret*, Rhonda Byrne, has claimed in interviews that the victims of 9-11 each harbored some kind of dark, sinister thoughts about their future and that is why they died. This is arrogance.

Firefighters running into the World Trade Center did not want to die, but were prepared to risk their lives trying



to save others. **Accidents and misfortunes do happen to highly positive-minded people.**

A Jewish baby born in Germany in 1939 did not come into the world seeking to suffer; the 12 million Ukrainians that Stalin starved to death in 1930 did not die according to "plan." Funny how all of the "universal" sooth sayers from Wayne Dyer on up, never spent a minute of their lives under the reign of Pol Pot or Idi Amin.

Randomness occurs in the universe; the same mass of gaseous

clouds subjected to the same temperatures do not form the same planets. Tipping points are reached, or they are not. A baby born at midnight, straddling one year or the next, does not enter a school year because it was pre-ordained but rather what the hospital attendant signs on the birth certificate.

Indeed, as Will Durant explained time and time again in his series on civilization, **much of history has unfolded on a twist or a turn.** Moreover, the randomness of what happens on earth is minuscule compared to the randomness that

has occurred and is occurring in the universe over countless millennia. New agers, irrevocably attached to giving higher meaning to everything, can never fathom this, but reality does not necessarily have an agenda.

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