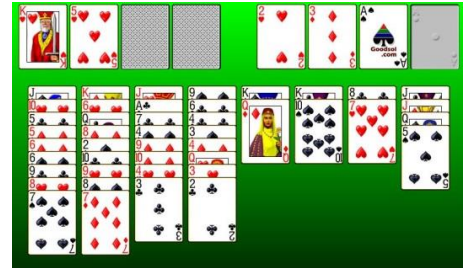


Consequences

My computer has a game called Free Cell, a modified game of Solitaire, which allows you to temporarily move 4 cards to the side while you play other cards. Throughout the entire game all 52 cards are on display, so there are no surprises. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Not the way I often play the game.



When I play Free Cell my first instinct is to immediately move the easy cards. I do this without scanning the entire field and planning future moves. I just play what is easy because I can, not because I should. After several hasty moves, I see my options are now limited. Then I study the field. Ignoring the consequences of not evaluating the results of my actions is often a recipe for disaster. I would be far better off creating the plan first before boxing myself into a corner. When I play the easy cards first, I ignore the later consequences of my actions.

In our everyday lives we may do the same thing. Some decisions seem easy and are made quickly, often without thinking. We do something merely because the opportunity is there, regardless of whether it is right or wrong. The truth is, easy decisions are not always the right ones, and may position us for disaster later in life. There are consequences to our actions: a wrong move in Free Cell or a poor choice in life.

Before diving into a task, first ask God for direction. With the wisdom of God's direction you can scan the full field and make the right choice. You certainly can ask yourself, "What would God do?"

It is not important to God if I win at Free Cell, but the decisions made in life are important to Him. Ask God for direction and He will lead you in the right path.

Question: In the past, how have you weighed options against their consequences before making a decision?

Scripture: *For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:6). Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path (Proverbs 2:9).*

Prayer: Lord, it is easy to merely react to situations we face. We pray we will seek Your direction to lead us on the right path for our lives.