



Dr. Sharron Stroud

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Different Choices

“I made different choices,” Dr. Sharron Stroud told the judge in the courtroom. It wasn’t the first time she’d said that to a judge. In fact, nearly every time Sharron went to court with her drug-addicted sister to explain how damaging their early home life was, every judge wanted to know why she wasn’t the same way. The answer never varied but different choice didn’t just explain why Dr. Sharron Stroud wasn’t drug/alcohol addicted or worse. It’s the theme of her life.

Sharron was only fourteen when her father tried to molest her and she ran away. A friend whom Sharron says, “was an only child with parents who adored me,” offered her a home and she chose it. Sharron recalls, “I was so deeply grateful to be living in a home with love and spiritual values. I began to see with “new eyes” that life could be vastly different from the environment that I had been raised in.”

Though Sharron’s mother “was relieved” that her daughter escaped from their abusive and physically violent alcoholic household, she and Sharron’s sister stayed there for many more years. By the time the marriage was over and her father had married someone much younger, her mother was a broken woman and sister’s life had spiraled downward; her sister ultimately committed suicide. Meanwhile, Sharron’s different choices put her on a path that resulted in healing the “incredible insecurities” of early life.

At nineteen Sharron read Dr. Norman Vincent Peale’s *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Until then she never knew she had the power to control her thoughts or use them to improve her life. Something inside Sharron shifted and, she says, “I began a Quest for Knowledge that has never left me.” She embraced “new thought” through the Science of Mind spiritual philosophy. It became both Sharron’s guiding light and her anchor. She took classes that talked about self-image and the power of belief. She learned about the flow of energy and intelligence of our emotions. For the first time in her life, she was enjoying a wonderful feeling of freedom.

The more Sharron studied, the more her life changed for the better. She put distance between her and the negativity of her family. At the same time, she began to understand that “people don’t do things *to us*, they do things *for themselves*. If I’m hurt, it’s time to make a new choice.” She began to learn a process for taking the negative energy from her past and “transmuting the energy into understanding and compassion.”

In her early twenties, she married Neil Stroud and they began a new and happy life together. One day a friend told them about the “wonderful church she was attending.” It was a Church of Religious Science and both she and Neil “resonated deeply to the Precepts of Universal Law and the Principles of Successful Living.” It wasn’t long before the couple was taking Science of Mind classes together and designing their life path guided by the principles they were learning.

When Neil graduated from college, they bought a house in the hills above Los Angeles California from an artist who sold the house for the unheard of sum of five thousand dollars. No one could believe it, but the “miracle” sale further affirmed their faith in positive thinking. Sharron was so happy with the blessings her new thought philosophy enabled her to enjoy that she wanted to share it with others so they too could empower their lives. She made another life-changing decision: she would enter the Religious Science ministry.

For the next few years, Sharron and Neil built their life together and, after five years, they expanded their family to include a daughter. Tricia Lorraine was only three days old when they received a call from a doctor about a routine chest x-ray Neil had; it was cancer. The couple’s great joy over their daughter’s birth suddenly turned to confusion as they tried to wrap their minds around a sudden and grave new reality.

Instead of becoming victims to the disease, the couple decided to focus their minds on positive thinking and “spiritual mind treatment” and moved in the direction of their goals. Neil’s cancer went into remission. Sharron graduated from ministerial school and started her ministry. Tricia Lorraine turned five. Then the cancer returned.

During her second ministerial year, Neil passed into the next world. The grief was almost too much for Sharron to bear. She recalls her feeling of powerlessness, remembering, “I was the Spiritual Leader of a growing congregation...but I felt my heart break open pouring forth all the sadness I had suffered throughout my whole life in the moment of his passing.”

While she grieved deeply for the loss of her spouse, Sharron says, giving up “was not an option.” Instead, she used Neil’s passing to push herself into a fuller expression of her faith and herself. As she handled the pain of her personal loss and waited for spiritual direction, she also understood that her daughter was mourning for the loss of her father. She began regular “missing daddy sessions” to help ease some of the hurt her daughter felt. Looking back Sharron says those moments with her daughter “were precious and very healing.”

Over time, her new life unfolded. She became the first female president of the UCRS School of Ministry, hosted ***The Choice is Yours***, a local radio show and developed a reputation as a powerful inspirational and motivational speaker. A few years later Sharron was invited to take over another ministry and, accepting the challenge, grew the congregation from sixty members to nearly three thousand in less than five years. She hosted another radio show, ***Miracles for Daily Living***, and her own television show, ***Passport to Life***. She moved from the LA hills home to an oceanfront community where she continued to raise her daughter in “environment of beauty, grace and safety.”

Fulfilling her mission to help others find their “healthy self” and become empowered, Dr. Sharron Stroud continues her ministry helping people understand that emotional baggage “becomes a block on the path” to happiness and fulfillment. She encourages them to “draw a larger circle” so they forgive the offender (as a gift to themselves), release the baggage and get on with their lives. Using her own personal challenges as examples, she stresses the importance of maintaining healthy boundaries and being surrounded by caring people. In fact, in her own life, she refuses to have anyone in her life who doesn’t love and support her; she recommends that model to others who want to grow without being weighed down.

Dr. Stroud speaks all over the world about the “Biology of Belief” and the Principles of Successful Living, which provide the foundation for making those all important good choices. When speaking to women she articulates her belief that “every woman has an amazing spirit within her,” and that she can fulfill her true purpose in life by working on herself. “I took classes, workshops, and seminars that transformed my consciousness from “victim to victor”. We can become embittered or empowered by what we experience! We have the power! The choice is ours. *“What will it be ladies?”*

Thank you, Sharron, for giving us the beautiful example of the power that every woman has within her to make the healthy and right choices that fulfill our purpose in the life - and prove that, no matter what, we can honor our destiny and live in abundant prosperity!

Dr. Sharron Stroud’s websites are www.innerfaithworldwide.com and <http://www.sharronstroud.com>. She shares her Sunday message on FB at: <http://www.facebook.com/innerfaithspiritualcenter>. You can join her every Tuesday on Blog Talk Radio at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/innerfaith>

Dr. Stroud’s forthcoming book, THE SAINT, THE WITNESS AND THE ANGEL, chronicles these events and more, including the tragedy that befell her mother and sister when they took a wrong turn on a mountain – a devastating event that resulted in her sister’s suicide but ending with a healing between Sharron and her mother.