

- Making Godly Decisions -

# Wisdom Series

- Wisdom to help us reign and succeed in life
- “Communication = Content + Relationship”

# Making Godly Decisions

- How do we apply the wisdom of God in our decision making, both big and small, in our daily lives, with our families and at work?
- Are we seeking God's will in all our decisions because we want to see His kingdom come or are we simply wanting God's wisdom (which includes knowledge of the future) in helping us make the best decisions for our own benefit?

# Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

- Christian wisdom begins by knowing and acknowledging God as the Lord of your life, fearing Him and seeking to obey His commands.

# Decisions Making

- We are where we are in our lives and in our careers in large part because of the decisions we have made.
- Taking a particular path opens up new opportunities (or options) but it also closes other paths and removes the options that path would have produced.

“He will lead you to make the right decision...”

“Pray about it...”

“Trust God...”

“Commit your plans to Him...”

“It’s God’s will...”

Beyond God's will for the big and important decisions, how about the daily ins and outs and accidental events that happen around us? Is God at work in those moments?

# Making Godly Decisions

The  
Independents

- Entirely self-directed
- God has absolutely little to no influence on



## 2 Timothy 3:1-5

“<sup>1</sup> But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> **having a form of godliness but denying its power.** Have nothing to do with such people.”

# Isaiah 29:13

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.”

# Making Godly Decisions

The  
Independents

The  
Earnest

# Making Godly Decisions

The  
Earnest

- Serious about our faith
- Earnestly seek out the will of God in our lives and try to involve God for most, if not all major decisions

# Philippians 4:6-7

“<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”

# Proverbs 3:5-6

“<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

# Billy Graham

“When you face a decision about your future, seek God’s will above all else. Make your decision a matter of prayer, and ask Him to guide. If we are truly open to His will, He will direct us. Does this mean we should just wait around until God gives us some kind of miraculous sign or deep inner conviction? No, not necessarily. God wants us to be practical...

# Billy Graham

“...Do research if you need to; understand yourself and your gifts; seek the advice of others. Make your decision in the light of God’s Word also; God never leads us to do anything that is contrary to the Bible. Remember, too, that God often guides us only one step at a time—but that is all we need to know. So don’t be anxious. Trust God to guide you, and He will.”



# Making Godly Decisions

The  
Independents

The  
Earnest

Those Who  
Walk With Jesus

# Making Godly Decisions

Those Who  
Walk With Jesus

- Reached an intimacy level that allows them to hear God actively beyond the major decisions

They choose to operate in the supernatural first not because they can't think for themselves but because they acknowledge God's control over all things, yield their lives to Him and allow God to truly direct their paths.

# Isaiah 30:21

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left,  
your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying,  
“This is the way; walk in it.””

# John 5:30

“I can do nothing on my own. I judge as God tells me. Therefore, my judgment is just, because I carry out the will of the one who sent me, not my own will.”

# 3 Simple Groups

1. Have a sense of where we are
2. Understand how God can be more involved in our decisions
3. Learn how to take one step further

# The Independents

“We are settling for a Christianity that revolves around catering to ourselves when the central message of Christianity is actually about abandoning ourselves.” – David Platt

“It is possible to have the language but not the life.” - Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon

# Consumerism

- OUR rights
- OUR choices
- OUR convenience



# Matthew 7:21-23

“<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ <sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

# True Wisdom

- Wisdom begins by knowing and acknowledging God as the Lord of your life, fearing Him and seeking to obey His commands.
- Start by acknowledging God as the true Lord of your life today

# The Earnest

1. How are you seeking God's will in your decisions?
2. What stops us from going further and operating beyond a transactional basis for only the bigger things in life?

# F.B. Meyer

“When we want to know God's will, there are three things which always occur: the inward impulse, the Word of God, and the trend of circumstances...Never act until these three things agree.”

# The Right Posture

“<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.” - James 1:5-7

# Matthew 27:5

“So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.”

- God is not the genie in our bottle and we cannot demand an answer instantly. But He reveals Himself slowly over time if we are truly sincere in seeking His will and spend the necessary time and commitment to seek Him.

# J. Oswald Sanders

“I try to gather all the information and all the facts that are involved in a decision, and then weigh them up and pray them over in the Lord's presence, and trust the Holy Spirit to sway my mind in the direction of God's will. And God generally guides by presenting reasons to my mind for acting in a certain way.”

# Alan Redpath

“Day by day, I turned to my Bible. Almost every day a verse seemed to speak to me and I began to write that verse against one of the arguments. At the end of a year, every argument in favour of staying in business had been wiped out. It took over a year, but I was not in a hurry. I was willing to wait; I wanted it to be in God's time. Too much was at stake to dash in the thing. I wanted to intelligently find the will of God. And I found it as I sought the Lord through my daily reading and meditation.”



# Trend of Circumstances

- There is no one-size-fit-all rule precisely because God is neither a genie in the bottle nor a machine.
- He is our Father, our Saviour, our friend and in whom we are meant to have a relationship with.

“In the heat of the day, from the most unexpected of places, God will provide!”

- Is this new direction biblical?
- [If you're married] Is my spouse in agreement with this decision?
- Does it complement my spiritual gifts?
- Can I use my God-given talents and abilities in this new role?
- Does this new direction line up with the long-term desires of my heart?
- Do I have the personal resources to move forward in this direction? Will I have to wait on God's timing to bring those resources to me or to my organization?
- Do I have the experience necessary to excel in this new area of responsibility? Or is God asking me to go out and gain the experience needed to move into this new venture?
- Is it ethical? Is it legal?
- Do I have the peace of Christ — not necessarily a complete and total freedom from concern — but do I have an assurance from the Lord that He will guide me in this new path?

- Will my decision fulfill a desire that has been planted in my heart?
- What are the key people around me saying about this new direction — parents, pastors, professors, mentors, and friends — how has my decision been balanced on the scales of their opinions?
- Are the circumstantial doors opened or are they closed?
- If the doors seem to be closed, does that mean I should back away, or do I have enough assurance through the other keys to wait in faith for God to bring the circumstances in line?
- If the doors seem to be open, do I have enough assurance through the other keys for me to move forward in this decision?
- Am I willing to die to my own desires if the Lord directs me in a way that I did not expect?
- Am I willing to allow God to give me the desires of my heart, even if it means new, possibly frightening challenges and a loss of my comfort zone?

# Taking A Step Further

1. Our lives are not fully surrendered to the Lord
2. We are too busy. Compulsively busy.
3. We don't trust Jesus enough

# Romans 8:32

“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

Beyond the big things in your life, how can you allow God to permeate the daily mundane decisions at work, at home or at play?

- What defines you and drives the decisions you make?
- Are the decisions you make for God to be real in your life or for your own benefit?
- Where do you think you stand – are you an independent, one who is earnest or one who truly walks with Jesus?
- What stops you from taking a step further? Is your life truly surrendered?
- Or are you simply too busy to hear God?
- Are you willing to trust Jesus and yield control of the decisions in your life?



# Summary

“The man or woman who is wholly and joyously surrendered to Christ can't make a wrong choice – any choice will be the right one.” – A.W Tozer

Matthew 6:33 – “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”