

“Decision Making and the Will of God”

Philippians 3:15

Part 2 of 2

Focus: How you should seek guidance from God.

II. A liberating way when it comes to decision making.

A. A biblical approach: The Way of Wisdom

1. The principle of obedience

The moral will of God. God has revealed what we should believe and how we must behave. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *“¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31; Romans 14:19; Matthew 28:19-20.

Mark 12:28-31; Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 2:5-8; Psalm 100:2.

John 13:17 – *“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them”.*

What does God’s Word say if it does say anything about my situation? Is there a command that I must obey in my situation? Is there a principle for me to live by? If I do make a certain decision does the bible reveal that it is sin?

2. The principle of freedom.

God’s will of command, does NOT cover and address every single decision we make and want an answer for. Where there is no command, God gives you the freedom (and responsibility) to choose.

Dinner invitation from unbelievers: “If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience’ sake” (1 Corinthians 10:27)

What you give to the church: “Let each one [give] just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Choice of a marriage partner: “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives, but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to whom she wishes, only in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 7:39)

3. The principle of wisdom.

Why you should seek wisdom. 2 Samuel 18:3-4. Brave David became wise David. Jesus commanded us to be wise (Matthew 10:16). The example of the apostles. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2 (*Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone,² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith...*) Ephesians 5:15-16: *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."*

God has provided valuable and legitimate sources of wisdom. There is God's Word.

Do your homework – outside research (Luke 14:28-32).

Take advantage of wise counsel (Proverbs 15:22).

Consider the lessons of life or experiences. Hebrews 5:12-14 - The mature, it says, *"have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."*

4. The principle of humble trust.

The sovereign will of God.

James 4:13-16 - *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' – yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil."*

When you have chosen what is moral and wise, then you must trust the sovereign God to work all the details out for good.

Don't be afraid of making decisions.

APPLICATION: What decision are you wrestling with?

1. What does the bible say about it? Is there anything in the bible that speaks directly to your situation?
2. If there is no command concerning the decision you are thinking of making, realize that God gives you freedom to decide. You must get pass the fact that God will NOT dictate every decision for you. But with that freedom, realize you are given great responsibility.
3. Therefore, seek wisdom through God's Word and guiding principles found within it, do your homework/research, consider your own personal desires, weigh what is good or better, take advantage of wise counsel, and so forth. Ask God for wisdom and seek it.
4. Pray (something you should be doing through the whole process) and go for it. Humbly trust God to work all things for good. If things need to be adjusted in the future, then adjust.