

Decisions

How do you make a decision in life?

There are a lot of factors.

Cost, benefits, appeal

Some can be fun - this ride or that. This movie or that. Which ice cream flavor? BOTH!

Business - market research, interview a candidate, ROI, analytics

Advertising is all about getting you to make a decision. To give you selling points
Most of it is vanity. Or motivated by greed (a bigger bottom line, profit, etc.)

Nothing wrong with profit. But I couldn't be a salesman.

Working at a credit union, being told to push loans/credit cards

Everything in life is a decision

What's on the menu?

What should i wear today?

What should we do?

Order you're going to do errands in

Dare I say it, who should i vote for?

Mat 6:30-34 NKJV - "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, [will He] not much more [clothe] you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day [is] its own trouble.

Decisions are more than choices. They can be more than success or a mistake. They can be downright failures. They can cost lives. They can be accidental. They can be sinful. They can even be willful transgressions.

Or they can be wise. They can be holy. They can be just. They can be fair.

Mat 7:13-14 NKJV - "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide [is] the gate and broad [is] the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow [is] the gate and difficult [is] the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The most important decision: Jesus

This is salvation. But it is more than what we think of it in our society...it is not just adding Jesus It is truly following him.

It is not choosing him. It is becoming like him. It is becoming totally beholden to HIS decisions, his choices for our lives.

Not choosing a ministry...but accepting the ministry he has for you. It is all in one.

The second biggest - spouse

This person you will do more than share your life with. You and they will become one. You will share the same life. New people, children, will be created by it. Communities and even the world will be affected one way or another by it. But most of all, they will either lead you to or away from the call the Lord has on your life.

Decisions AFFECT and EFFECT more than you. They have long-lasting repercussions, effects, and benefits.

Buying a house - it will be the place we spend the next number of years (unless the Lord changes our present course)

It will be where our kids grow up

It will be who we are neighbors with

It will be how long it takes us to get to church

It will be where people come to stay with us

Jas 4:13-17 NKJV - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what [will happen] tomorrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you [ought] to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do [it], to him it is sin.

It's arrogant to think we can make long term decisions

Divination

Fortune telling
 Fortune cookies
 Horoscopes

Lev 19:26 NKJV - 'You shall not eat [anything] with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.

Jer 14:14 NKJV - And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

Eze 12:24 NKJV - "For no more shall there be any false vision or flattering divination within the house of Israel.

Eze 13:6 NKJV - "They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, 'Thus says the LORD!' But the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed.

Act 16:16 NKJV - Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

AI

Smart markets

Predictions

Weather simulations

The best is they think they know what will happen 50 years from now when they have no clue what it's going to do on Tuesday.

Magic 8 ball

- It is certain.
- It is decidedly so.
- Without a doubt.
- Yes - definitely.
- You may rely on it.
- As I see it, yes.
- Most likely.
- Outlook good.
- Yes.
- Signs point to yes.
- Reply hazy, try again.
- Ask again later.
- Better not tell you now.
- Cannot predict now.
- Concentrate and ask again.
- Don't count on it.
- My reply is no.

- My sources say no.
- Outlook not so good.
- Very doubtful.

Pro 16:33 NKJV - The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision [is] from the LORD.

Urim/thummim

Exo 28:30 NKJV - "And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

Urim = "lights"

stones kept in a pouch on the high-priest's breastplate, used in determining God's decision in certain questions and issues

Thummim = "perfection"

stones provided for the means of achieving a sacred lot

used with the Urim, the will of God was revealed

I pretty much wondered if I could use a modern day urim and thummim. Sometimes I think it would be nice. But you know, you'd begin to worship them and the process. Like Two Face in batman, flipping the coin for every decision.

Asked God for a simple yes or no, went and read the Bible and after a few chapters it stuck out, "Be still"

Verses on waiting that morning, then devotional was all about wait on the Lord

Breastplate of judgment

This symbolized God's judgment, God's decision for the people of Israel
Moses making decisions, captains

**God wanted to be intimately involved with the nation's decisions
He was their king**

He would guide them

Isa 30:21 NKJV - Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This [is] the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left.

Psa 32:8-9 NKJV - I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse [or] like the mule, [Which] have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

Some of us need to be harnessed with a bit and bridle because we have no understanding on how to make a decision, no wisdom

Forced to go. Like jail, our bad decisions lead us into narrow places where we can't go anywhere

Nation of Israel - God had to use their enemies to get them to go in the right direction Pharaoh had to pursue them to get those stubborn folks to keep leaving their slavery behind!

Hard times can direct us because we weren't wise to avoid them.

Pro 6:1-11 NKJV - My son, if you become surety for your friend, [If] you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids. Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand [of the hunter], And like a bird from the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler, Provides her supplies in the summer, [And] gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep-- So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

Want to get wisdom for making decisions? Read proverbs. Read ecclesiastes. Read psalms. Read the entire Bible. But those books are full of practical insight.

Things that should be obvious, but sometimes aren't because our decision making processes are blinded by desire.

Let God open your eyes and be wise.

Good decisions lead us into wide places where there is a lot of freedom

Psa 18:19 NKJV - He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

There is a narrowness in following Jesus. Meaning I know there is a perfect will of God for me. Sometimes only one choice to make and sometimes it's hard to discern.

Love God and do what you want - Jon Courson

This is not do anything you want, because usually that would mean loving yourself.

But when you love God and do what He wants, there is immense freedom. Even if it means you can only choose one thing. Knowing that He is making the decision is incredibly freeing and you know that you'll always get the best - better than you could have ever done on your own - if he does it.

So how can we make good decisions?

Not one of these is necessarily more important than the other and they're not necessarily in any order. Other than seeking God first over advice from people.

They all need to work in conjunction.

Don't listen to your heart

Patience - waiting to make a decision. Don't bow to pressure.

Buy now or someone else will! OK, let them. You need to hear from God if it's right.

Prayer

We can't expect to hear or trust and answer to our problem, question, decision, unless we've been praying about it. Don't just seek God for answers, seek him for him. And in fact, seek him for the answers and direction for other's decisions and lives and watch how he'll begin to reveal to you what you need to hear.

Devotional time in the bible

Morning, evening, whenever. Devotionals (utmost for his highest,

rhema/logos

Psa 119:9-12 NKJV - BETH. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed [are] You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

Living in the bible

Obedying God is the only way to know Him. Knowing the scripture but not obeying it is not really knowing anything.

Messages - listen to pastors. Learn, Grow. let God speak to you. Pick the right pastors. Not with itching ears, what you want to hear, but those who truly teach the bible. Not those who are chasing trends and followers.

Fellowship be friends with other believers. Be influenced by them. Watch how they make their godly decisions. See what God does in their life and be encouraged to do the same. Encourage them with good counsel and your godly life!

Pick the right friends

COUNSEL

Wisdom offers counsel

Pro 8:14 NKJV - Counsel [is] mine, and sound wisdom; I [am] understanding, I have strength.

Pro 1:5 NKJV - A wise [man] will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

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Pro 19:20-21 NKJV - Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days. There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the LORD's counsel--that will stand.

Pro 20:18 NKJV - Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

Remember, this life is a war. Not against each other, but against evil.

Every decision is important.

As little as to what toothpaste you should use to as a big as what your life is meant for.

You can pray about the little things as well as the big things.

Big things, are they not truly the sum of little things?

Buying a house - didn't use to want to, didn't want to be tied down somewhere, in debt, no need. As the call of God on my life became clearer and clearer, ministry became my life, got married, called out here, sense that the Lord would have us here, have kids, want good for them an inheritance...it is now making sense to buy a house. To lay down roots. To make that long-term commitment. Desire to give my kids an inheritance a place where they can live and not have to move and can come back to when they're grown. A place to settle down because this is where

the Lord would have us settle. But so many factors, so many little decisions, little directions in life, all add up.

Start today. No matter how many decisions you've made in life. Good or bad. Start right now. Make a good decision and whatever you're facing. Whether it's as little as what's for lunch or as big as if you should marry that person, even if the wedding is this afternoon, ask God whether he'd want it for you. Whether it's His plan or not. You don't want to be beholden to anything but him.

It might be hard to change course, but it will be much easier than going the wrong way.

Seek God. read proverbs. Read ecclesiastes. Read psalms. Decide to see the world the way God does. Not the way you want to, or the advertising wants you to, and you'll truly have your best life - God's life for you.