

# MAKING DECISIONS

What is one of the biggest decisions you've ever made and how did you make it?

## Many Christians make decisions very subjectively or impulsively.

- "Should I date them? Well, they are good looking and they will talk to me, so yes!"
- "What major should I pick? That sounds fun!" "Should I take this job? Uh, I guess."
- Even worse, we "baptize" our decision making. "They're good looking, so God wants me to date them."
- Sometimes our decision making looks more like Paganism. "I saw a cloud that looked like a ring, and it was definitely God telling me we're going to get married."
- The phrase, "God told me" can easily be abused. How have you seen or done this?

Many Christians struggle with the phrase "finding god's will" as if (1) it is hidden from us or (2) it is about our future and not our present. God WANTS you to know his will. He's given you all everything you need to make wise decisions!

## SIX STEPS IN CHRISTIAN DECISION MAKING

Adapted from "Finding God's Will" by Dr. Bruce Waltke

### 1) Read your Bible, memorize it, meditate on it, and obey it.

- Does God speak? Yes! How most commonly? THROUGH THE BIBLE!
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3, "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality."

### 2) Develop a heart for God so that your desires are in tune with His word.

- Romans 12:2 – "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

### 3) Seek wise counsel from other Christians.

- A personal relationship with God is not a PRIVATE relationship with God. God gives you fellow believers to be mentors and advisors for your important decisions.

### 4) Look for God's providence in circumstances around you.

- If a door opens up in an uncanny way, consider whether God opened it for you to go through. If a door slams shut in a decisive way, consider that God has said NO to that option.

### 5) Ask yourself if what you're doing makes logical sense.

- God is intelligent and wise and you're made in God's image. Occasionally God might want you to do something that defies logic, but that is the exception not the rule.

### 6) Be prepared for, but do not always expect, divine intervention.

- Can God give us inner promptings to help make decisions? Absolutely! But this is by far the most subjective of these 6. Should you consider this? Yes! But only in conjunction with the other 5 steps..

**THEN DECIDE AND DO!** Don't be non-committal. Don't be paralyzed by fear.

Which of these steps is most helpful for you? Why?

How will you apply this lesson this week? "This week, I will \_\_\_\_\_."

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