

BECOMING Wiser

Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do get, good judgment.
Proverbs 4:7

LESSON 6 & 7 // WISDOM TO GUIDE YOUR DECISIONS (PART 2)

God wants guide you into wise choices and decisions. In our last lesson we talked about some general principles of God's guidance based on the following verses:

Proverbs 3:5, 6 (NKJV) *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*

This lesson will focus on seven practical steps to follow when making important life decisions.

1. Start with “yes.”

We make the best decisions when we surrender to and are willing to be completely influenced by God. When we only want what God wants and wills, we're in the right place to make better choices. Jesus taught this to us by His instruction and example:

Matthew 6:9, 10 (NIV) *This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”*

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV) *He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*

2. Check the “life manual.”

God has already answered a lot of your guidance questions in the Bible. In God's Word you find His principles, precepts and promises that give you wisdom to make good, godly decisions.

3. Get the right information.

To make the right choices, you need information that will help you know the right thing to do. The best information ahead of decisions saves you from many post-decision regrets and remorse.

Proverbs 18:13 (TLB) *What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts.*

4. Do the heart work.

Every decision is the result of some influence. To make good decisions, take a hard look (with the help of others) at your relationships, motives, emotions, pressures and circumstances to see what influence they might be having in your heart on your potential decisions.

5. Revisit your past in a healthy, helpful way.

Fools are people who never mine the gold from their mistakes. Instead they repeat their mistakes (see Judges 2:18, 19; Proverbs 26:11). Don't let this be you!

When making a major decision, revisit your past in a healthy, helpful way. Ask good questions: What situations in the past are similar to what you're facing now? What did you do in those situations that will help you navigate this one? Search for the lessons in the past that will help you make a better decision in the present.

6. Seek the right advice.

When facing a major decision, you need the right advice. If all you have is you, you're in trouble already, as we see in Proverbs 18:2, 12:15, 19:20 and 20:18. You need input from someone who is qualified to help based on their godliness, maturity, experience and love for you.

7. Be patient in the process.

Hurried decisions usually do not turn out well. Waiting, especially waiting on God, is always worth it. Waiting time is not (or should not be) wasted time.

Why is it wise to be patient?

- It takes time to make a good decision!
- God clarifies His direction through time.
- Urgency is not always a good thing!

Don't turn your urgency into an emergency! You will almost never regret going slow, but often regret moving too quickly when making a decision (Proverbs 19:2, 21:5 and 29:20).

Discussion questions

1. Why is it wise to "look at your relationships, motives, emotions, pressures and circumstances" when making decisions?
2. How can a healthy review of your past help you make good decisions in the present?
3. Read Proverbs 19:2, 21:5 and 29:20. What do these verses tell you about the value of being patient in making your decisions?