

Decision Making

Part 2 of 3

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Why the topic of the biblical principles of *DECISION MAKING* is so important.

2

Unbiblical methods of *DECISION MAKING* that are commonly taught or practiced in Christian society today.

- “The dot”

- Feelings

- Open doors / Closed doors

Why this appeals to people: it’s easy

In God’s sovereignty, sometimes He chooses for us by making all option impossible except one. That is His kindness; give thanks when He does.

But many people who do not want to decide are waiting for God to close all doors except one as the time to choose ends.

This is putting Him to the test and does not honor Him.

**These unbiblical methods of making decision, like open doors / closed door, diminish the role God says His Word should have in our lives
John 17.17**

2 Timothy 3.16-17

Other false teachings of our era also remove the Word from the place God intends it to have

- “Putting out the fleece”

Examples

Judges 6.11-23 and 6.36-40

Not a story of decision making in non-revealed choices

He was asking God to confirm what He had already spoken

This is also not an endorsement of Gideon's actions (note Jesus' actions and words in a similar situation: Matthew 4.5-7)

Gideon's story is an account of God's patience and grace

Important note: See how God dealt with Gideon in Judges 7

- “God told me..”
- The counsel of the ungodly

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The theology of the Bible reveals God's plan for *DECISION MAKING*.

- Confidently seek truth in God's sufficient Word

>>Obey God in all matters about which the Word speaks directly (commands, laws, truths) (John 15.10-11)

>>Consider the truths of the Word regarding the matter at hand and evaluate how they apply to this decision

>>Be confident God can equip you for every good work through the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3.16-17)

>>If you obey and apply the Word, He will bless whatever you do (James 1.25, Psalm 1.1-3)

>>Wisdom in the Bible is a life view that honors God as God and lives accordingly, choosing righteousness over sin (James 3.13-18, Galatians 5.16-25, Ephesians 5.15-17). God offers this wisdom to His children who ask for it in faith (James 1.5-6, Proverbs 1.2-7)

>>God provides guidance through godly believers (Proverbs 1.5, 13.20) and via life experiences (Hebrews 5.12-14, Luke 14.28-32).

>>If you are following the Scriptures with a clear conscience, be confident in God's love and involvement (Romans 8.28, Proverbs 16.9).

- Evaluate my motives

Diagnostic questions

Is my conscience arguing with me?

Do I want this so much that my mind is making up reasons why it is okay?

Do I want to be in control more than to subject my will to Christ?

What do I hope will happen if I do this?

Is my attitude this: "Lord, I will honor you in this matter regardless of what results"?

Do I think: "When You show me what I must do to obey You and honor You in this, I will gladly do it with all my energy"?

Does the potential opinion/response of other people affect my evaluation of this decision?

Is my commitment that I will not decide until I know for sure what Scripture says about the various factors involved in this decision?

Am I convinced before God that this is right?

The Scripture address these and all other heart-level questions.

Romans 14: The topic is God's will on decisions not directly defined in the Word

Romans 14 teaches that the motive is the key

.5 Be fully convinced in your own mind

.6-8 We choose what we choose to honor God

.22 Your own conviction

Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves

.23 Doubt=sin

- If more than one choice remains, I am free to choose

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The results of biblical *DECISION MAKING* are honoring to the Lord and a blessing to the believer.

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Practical help: here are specific biblical principles that apply to *DECISION MAKING* issues that Christians commonly face.