

How To Make Wise Decisions

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 [New King James] *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

Most of the people whom God is calling at this time to receive salvation and fulfil His work in their generation are **not** naturally worldly wise nor have we accomplished great things in today’s society.

Acts 4:13 [New King James] *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”*

Peter and John the apostles chosen by Jesus Christ fitted into this inspired statement of Paul.

Too often we find we have made wrong decisions, some endeavour, project or business arrangement does **not** work out as we hoped it would.

Perhaps we were not taught wisdom by our parents or seen wisdom in their decisions.

In this article I intend to show you how to avoid the pitfall of unwise decisions, by showing you certain principles that if followed will result in a right decision every time.

Genesis 2:15-17 [New King James] *“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’”*

From the very beginning of human existence God has shown us that we are to make decisions [choices], the ultimate choice being eternal life.

Deuteronomy 30:19 [New King James] *“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;”*

The same command was given to Israel as they were about to enter into the Promised Land.

Every decision we make in life is either right [wise] or wrong [unwise].

Basic keys to making wise decisions

Jeremiah 10:23 [New King James] *“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”*

The ability to always make right decisions is **not** in the nature of human beings.

Proverbs 14:12 [New King James] *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”*

The decision we are about to make may seem to be the right one, but is most likely to end in failure, this is repeated in **Proverbs 16:25** in case we did not “get it” the first time.

These statements in God's Word are ego pricking and humbling realisation but is the essential starting point to making any wise and right decision.

How then do we make a wise [right] decision?

Realise that there are two types of wisdom.

James 3:13-18 [Amplified Bible] *“Who is there among you who is wise and intelligent? Then let him by his noble living show forth his good works with the unobtrusive humility which is the proper attribute of true wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy, envy and contention, rivalry, selfish ambition in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the truth. This superficial wisdom is not such as comes from above, but is earthly, unspiritual animal, even devilish, demoniacal. For where there is jealousy, envy and contention, rivalry and selfish ambition, there will also be confusion, unrest, disharmony, rebellion and all sorts of evil and vile practice. But the wisdom that is from above is first of all pure, undefiled, then it is peace-loving, courteous, considerate, gentle. It is willing to yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits, it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned, free from doubts wavering and insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness, of conformity to God's will in thought and deed, is the fruit of the seed sown in peace by those who work for and make peace in themselves and in others, that is, that peace which means concord agreement, harmony between individuals, with undisturbedness, in a peaceful mind free from fears and agitating passions and moral conflicts.”*

Worldly wisdom does have its place, it is successful up to a certain point, it can make you very rich and successful by worldly standards, but it is used for the wrong selfish motive.

Godly wisdom is even more successful in the long run and does not have nasty side effects.

Rule one – is to ask God for wisdom

James 1:5-8 [New King James] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

If we have accepted that we of our own selves, as human beings, do **not** know how to make wise decisions, the obvious place to go is to the throne of our Creator, Almighty, all-wise God.

Note certain conditions that are stated for us to receive this *“wisdom from above.”*

We need faith in the existence of God not allowing influence of this world's society to cause us to doubt.

“Double minded” is translated from the Greek word *“dipsuchōs”* which means *“double spirited.”*

Not being influenced by the spirit that rules the media [**Ephesians 2:2**] and blinds humanity to the truth [**2 Corinthians 4:4**] as well as the Holy Spirit Who is God.

Too many of us plunge into our decisions without going first to the source of all knowledge and experience, God's Word, the Christian Bible, and the Living Word, Jesus Christ, and God the Father.

When we do this first we will be able to accept and follow the following principles of making successful decisions.

King Solomon was a good example of going to God for wisdom while he was still young.

1 Kings 3:5-9 [New King James] *“At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask! What shall I give you?’ And Solomon said: ‘You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?’”*

This move by Solomon was most likely prompted by David his father, or at least seen by Solomon when as a young child watching his father.

Notice the approach made to God was *“child like,”* [verse 7].

Luke 18:15-17 [New King James] *“Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”*

This is the only approach we should make to our Heavenly Father. Even if we have to make a *“rapid-fire”* decision we can still make a few seconds of prayer asking God to show us His wisdom in the decision we are about to make.

One essential thing about the above is that our contact with God is open, that He will hear our prayer, [Isaiah 59:1-2].

Rule two – search God’s Word, the Christian Bible, for examples of right action being taken in similar circumstances

Deuteronomy 4:1, 6-7 [New King James] *“Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.” ... “Therefore be careful to observe them; for **this is your wisdom** and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’ For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the LORD our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?”*

Note the statement *“this is your wisdom.”*

Also we are to pass this on to the next generation, [verse 9].

There are many examples when Israel made unwise decisions and the results are recorded.

The wrong reactions and decisions of Israel on their journey out of slavery in Egypt towards the Promised Land, which led to 40 years delay in the wilderness, until a new generation learnt from the mistakes of their parents.

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 [New King James] *“Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

All of these mistakes made by Ancient Israel are for this *“end time”* generation to learn from.

1 Corinthians 10:15 [New King James] *“I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.”*

Paul hoped that all who read his letters would wisely take notice of these recorded bad decisions.

Even Jesus Christ as the human Son of Man, when under pressure from Satan to make wrong decisions applied this principle.

Matthew 4:4 [New King James] *“But He answered and said, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*”

Should we not follow this example of our Saviour?

Even this world’s *“unjust judges”* follow the same principle. No judge presiding over a case will come to a final decision without knowing the decisions of previous judges in any similar cases.

We all need to know God’s Word, the Christian Bible, well enough to be able to know where to look for these examples of how other people responded to a situation and what was the outcome of their decision.

Only when we have spent time in study and meditation of God’s Word can the Holy Spirit bring to remembrance the right scriptures and examples, [**John 14:26**].

Without the help of the Holy Spirit we have little chance of always making the right wise decision.

Rule three – get the facts

Many of us neglect this rule because we are in too much of a hurry to come to a decision, we are impatient.

Each decision we make will have many factors to consider, including the effect it will have on other people.

Only if we have the knowledge of all these facts can we ever make wise decisions.

Proverbs 18:13 [Amplified Bible] *“He who answers a matter before he hears the facts, it is folly and shame to him.”* [**John 7:51**].

Notice how salesmen and adverts on television or the internet encourage us to make the decision to buy their product *“now,” “today,” “without delay.”*

If we respond to this pressure we may only find out about the weaknesses or faults of a product after we have paid for it.

Never be in a hurry to make a decision, do **not** allow others to pressure us into a quick decision we may later regret.

Make a list of *“pros and cons”* on a piece of paper.

Ask ourselves the question constantly, *“Do I have all the relevant facts?”*

Sleep on it, you may see things clearer and different in the morning.

If this decision upsets the salesman, don’t buy the product, for if his product is really good and he is sure of its quality, he will not mind our taking time to make the decision to buy.

I know this from over 50 years of running a business.