

HOW TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS

August 22, 2021 – Pastor Rick Reager

I. HOW CAN I ENSURE MY DECISIONS ARE WISE?

1. LET _____

⁸ *The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalm 32:8*

2. WHEN HE DOESN'T GIVE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE, USE THE WISDOM _____

⁵ *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5*

II. PROBLEMS THAT KEEP US FROM MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

1. WE DON'T ASK _____

²⁶ *A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God's wisdom are safe.” Proverbs 28:26*

¹² *There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.” Proverbs 14:12*

² *You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it.” James 4:2*

2. OUR _____ GETS IN THE WAY

¹⁸ *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.*
¹⁹ *I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.”*
Romans 7:18-19

3. OUR _____ GET IN THE WAY

³ *And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.” James 4:3*

4. WE FAIL TO _____

¹⁴ *For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.” Job 33:14*

¹ *I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber!* ² *But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.* ³ *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.* ⁴ *After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice.* ⁵ *They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice.” John 10:1-5*

5. _____ KEEPS US FROM ACTING ON GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.” 2 Timothy 1:7*

⁷ *For we walk by faith, not by sight.” 2 Corinthians 5:7*

6. _____ **MAJOR DECISIONS**

“² Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.” Proverbs 19:2

III. HOW CAN I MAKE WISE DECISIONS?

1. COME TO THE PLACE WHERE I HAVE _____

“⁹ Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. ¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:9-10

2. PRAY FOR _____

“⁵ If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking. ⁶ But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.” James 1:5-8

3. REMAIN _____ THE DECISION

“² Enthusiasm without knowledge is no good; haste makes mistakes.” Proverbs 19:2

“³² Better to be patient than powerful; better to have self-control than to conquer a city.” Proverbs 16:32

4. GET THE _____

“¹⁶ Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly.” Proverbs 13:16

5. SEEK OUT _____ FROM _____

“²² Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.” Proverbs 15:22

6. SEEK INSIGHT _____

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.” 2 Timothy 3:16

“¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” Psalm 119:105

7. EXPAND MY _____ WHEN LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

“⁸ “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

8. GIVE GOD _____

“¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.” Hebrews 12.1-2

9. WHEN I FEEL I MAY HAVE THE CORRECT ANSWER, _____ BEFORE I _____

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- i. Does The Bible _____?**
- ii. Do My Advisors _____??**
- iii. Is My Decision Following The _____??**
- iv. Have I Truly _____??**
- v. Will The Decision Positively Impact _____??**
- vi. Would I _____?About My Decision?**
- vii. Is This The Best Use Of _____?**

10. ONCE I HAVE TESTED MY DECISION, FACE _____

“⁴ If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.” Ecclesiastes 11:4

“³¹ If God is for us, who can ever be against us?” Romans 8:31

“¹³ For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13