

If there is one thing we all need – it is direction. Making wise decisions is perhaps the most important skill that we could ever develop in this life – it is the foundation to wisdom.

We make our decisions and then our decisions _____ us.

Why is it more difficult to make decisions today?

1. **We have more _____.** The more options you have, the less happy you are in making a decision.
2. **The illusion of _____.** People are afraid of making “imperfect” decisions, so they don’t make any decision.
3. **We’ve _____ - _____ our kids.** Instead of training them how to make their own decisions, parents are making all the decisions for them.

Proverbs 28:26, says, *“He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.”*

Did you know we make over _____ decisions every day? We find ourselves confronted with a series of choices every day. Some decisions have far reaching consequences and other decisions are not so far reaching. **Our choices determine the _____ of our life and the _____ of our life.**

It is helpful to have some kind of biblical process through which you can go in order to arrive at a wise decision. Whenever you are facing a choice, ask yourself these 10 questions based on Proverbs 10 principles to making wise decisions:

1. Am I fully _____ this decision to the Lord?

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3:5-6; cf. 16:3, 28:25).

Psalm 16:11, *“You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever.”*

James 1:5 says, *“If any man lacks wisdom let him ask of God who gives to all men generously.”*

Someone has defined rebellion this way: “Reserving for myself the right to make the _____ decision.” You don’t make the final decision! God does! *“In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps”* (Proverbs 16:9).

God will never advance your _____ beyond your last act of _____.

2. Do I have all the _____ ?

“To answer before listening—that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13; cf. 18:17).

Proverbs 13:16 says, *“Every prudent man acts out of knowledge.”*

We have to be careful to not make decisions based on _____.

Ask yourself at least two questions: 1. What do I need to know? 2. What do I not know?

3. What is the collective counsel of my _____ ?

“The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice” (Proverbs 12:15; cf. 11:14, 15:22, 20:18, 24:6, 27:9, 13:20, 18:1-2).

God often speaks through godly people. Proverbs 20:18, *“The more advice you get the more likely you are to win.”* Proverbs 11:14, *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”*

4. Is the pressure of time forcing me to make a _____ decision I might not otherwise make?

“Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way” (Proverbs 19:2; cf. 25:8, 21:5).

Proverbs 17:24 says, *“An intelligent man aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.”*

5. Have I fully considered all the _____ for each course of action I’m considering?

“The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps” (Proverbs 14:15; cf. 14:1, 27:12, 14:23).

Proverbs 20:5, *“It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.”*

You have to ask the question: “What are the consequences of this choice? What will it cost me to make this choice?” And then, “Are the profits and the potential worth the cost?”

- **PRINCIPLE #1: You should always postpone making a decision when you are physically or emotionally _____.**
- **PRINCIPLE #2: You should never make a decision until you have sought the _____ of God and gained the _____ of God.**
- **PRINCIPLE #3 - We don’t make good decisions when our emotions are real _____ or real _____!**
- **PRINCIPLE #4 – Don’t allow your dreams and desires to become an _____ where you are pursuing them more than you are pursuing God.**

6. Could this decision jeopardize my _____ or hinder my _____ for the Lord in any way?

“Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked” (Proverbs 25:26; cf. 10:9, 22:1, 20:7).

Proverbs 20:18 says, *“Don’t go charging into battle without a plan.”*

Proverbs 22:3, *“A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks for problems ahead and suffers the consequences.”*

7. How should my _____ inform this decision?

“As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly” (Proverbs 26:11; cf. 17:10).

Proverbs 29:25, *“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trust in the Lord is kept safe.”*

8. Have I honestly considered the _____?

“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death” (Proverbs 16:25; cf. 27:6, 10:17).

9. For better or worse, what are the possible _____ that could be driving this decision?

“All a person’s ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD” (Proverbs 16:2; cf. 20:9, 21:2).

10. Is there a better option that would allow me to make a _____ for God’s Kingdom?

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives” (Proverbs 11:30).

WORD STUDY: “Decision” = comes from Latin roots *de*, which means “from,” and *caedere*, which means “to cut.” Making a true decision means committing to achieving a result and then cutting yourself off from any other possibility. There comes a time when you have to make a choice and you charge on forward. **You will never leave where you _____ until you decide where you would rather _____.**

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8. Have I honestly considered the warning signs ?

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