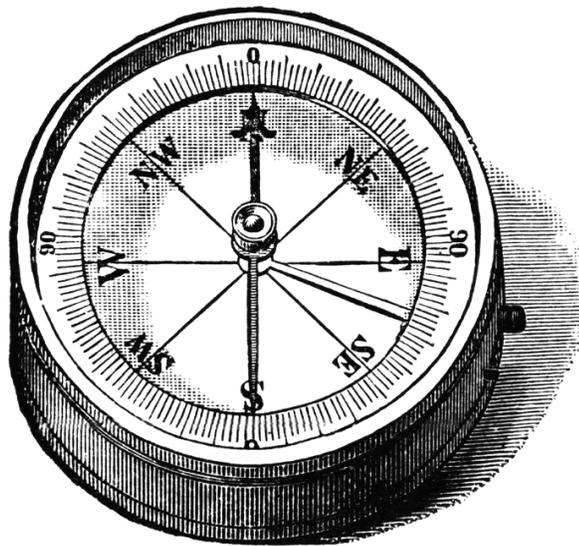


“Foundations” – Lesson #7

MAKING RIGHT DECISIONS

If you've ever strayed outside God's guidelines and experienced the damage that was done to you and others, you understand that there's a good reason for obeying God's instruction. God's guidelines in the Bible are for you. They exist because God loves you, not because He wants to limit your life. They're intended to provide refuge, not promote rules. They're also intended to help you remain on the path of continual spiritual growth and maturity. In fact, you won't become the person God intends you to be unless you follow His guidelines. When you follow your will and way, you handcuff the potential of your life to the circumstances of your own choices. But when you walk in God's will and way you free up His unlimited power and blessings in your life.



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

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God promises to lead as you rely on Him completely. He can guide you perfectly, because He knows all your needs and has infinite wisdom, power and riches to give you the best life possible. As a new Christian, you will be faced with many decisions. In this lesson we will study how God helps us make right choices in life.

I. We can make the right decisions if we understand God's character and promises to us.

A. According to Proverbs 3:5-6, what three things are we told to do?

1. Trust in the Lord
2. Lean not on your own understanding
3. in all your ways acknowledge Him (God)

B. When we do our part, what does God promise He will do in Proverbs 3:6b?

He will make our paths straight

C. Why should we not try to make decisions on human reasoning alone? Isaiah 55:8-9

God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours

D. What is the warning that God gives to those who trust in earthly things? Jeremiah 17:5

Cursed is the person who trusts in human wisdom

E. What does God do for those who trust Him?

Isaiah 41:10 Don't have to be afraid, God will be with you, don't
have to be discouraged, God is yours, God will strengthen and
help you, God will uphold you

Psalms 32:10 God's love surrounds you and you know it

Take a moment and look back over the points above. How would knowing these things help a Christian make right choices? humans

have the bad habit of trusting in themselves, knowing that God's
wisdom and guidance is available to us is amazing

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II. We can make right decisions if we are walking in obedience to God.

A. What is Jesus saying in the verse below?

John 14:10 “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

I am in the father and the father is in me, God living in me does
the work

Since God lives in a new Christian’s life also, how might an understanding of this change the way we approach life?

Teacher, listen to their answers and help them understand that
having God in their life will effect what they think about, what
they say, where they go and what they do

B. In the verse below, what are the steps we must take to experience God’s will.

Romans 12:1-2 ¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Step #1 Offer your bodies as living sacrifices

Step #2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world

Step #3 Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

C. Discuss how our minds are renewed?

III. We must realize that every decision has a consequence.

A. Consequences of a wrong choice.

Read about David and Bathsheba in II Samuel 11

B. Consequences of a right choice.

Read about Joseph and Potiphar’s wife in Genesis 39

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IV. Discuss these five steps to a right decision.

A. Commit the situation to God in prayer.

Tell God that you desire to obey Him no matter what, and ask for His help in determining His direction and timing.

James 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

B. Spend time reading your Bible

Check possible actions against God’s Word. If a potential action is contrary to what God has said in His Word then you know it’s not the right action to take.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

C. Think through the consequences.

Ask: How will it affect me? How will it affect others? Does it glorify God?

Matthew 22:34-37 “³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” ³⁷Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

D. Seek advice from mature Christians.

Proverbs 11:14 “For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.”

Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

Proverbs 20:18 “Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.

Hebrews 13:7 “Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

E. Take a step of faith based on what God has revealed to you so far.

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V. Ten tests to all thoughts, words and actions:

- A. The Purity Test – 1 Corinthians 6:19
Can I do this to the body where Christ dwells?
- B. The Participation Test – 1 John 2:15-16
Will doing this take my eyes off Jesus?
- C. The Polite Test – Romans 14:7,21
How will doing this affect others?
- D. The Partner Test – Colossians 3:17
Could I invite Christ to do this with me?
- E. The Public Test – 1 Thessalonians 5:22
Will this give the appearance of wrong doing?
- F. The Presence Test – 1 John 2:28
Would I be ashamed to be found doing this upon Christ’s return?
- G. The Problem Test – Hebrews 12:1
Will this hinder my NEW LIFE in Christ?
- H. The Proof Test – Romans 12:9
Is this good for me physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually?
- I. The Proclamation Test – Philippians 2:15
Will this void my witness for Christ?
- J. The Peace Test – Philippians 4:6-7
After praying about it, can I do it and have peace?