

Decision Making

Philippians 1:9-10 (ESV)

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

1.

Will the decision keep you separate from the world?

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2.

Will the decision allow peace to rule?

Colossians 3:15 (ESV)

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

3.

Will the decision demonstrate a fear of man or a fear of the Lord?

Proverbs 29:25 (ESV)

The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

Proverbs 14:26 (ESV)

In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,
and his children will have a refuge.

4.

Will the decision allow you to obey all the “one another” passages in scripture? All 50+ of them?

Romans 12:10b (ESV)

Outdo ONE ANOTHER in showing honor.

5.

Will the decision build up the Body of Christ?

Romans 15:2

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

6.

Will the decision allow you to continue to pursue peace and mutual building up of each other?

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

7.

Will the decision magnify the Lord?

Psalms 34:3 (ESV)

3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

8.

Is the decision based upon Biblical thinking?

Philippians 4:8-9 (ESV)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

9.

Does the decision rely on your mindset or God's wisdom and direction?

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

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 straight your paths.

10.

Are you by faith seeking God's wisdom in the decision?

James 1:5-6 (ESV)

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

11.

Does the decision simply please yourself?

Romans 15:1 (ESV)

We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

12.

Do you have complete faith that the decision is a right decision?

Romans 14:23 (ESV)

But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.

13.

Have you sought counsel from spiritual people about the decision?

Proverbs 11:14 (ESV)

Where there is no guidance, a people falls,
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 15:22 (ESV)

Without counsel plans fail,
but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 20:18 (ESV)

Plans are established by counsel;
by wise guidance wage war.

14.

Are you yielding the decision to God's plans?

Proverbs 16:1 (ESV)

The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:3 (ESV)

Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:9 (ESV)

The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.

15.

Can the decision be done in the name of the Father? Would He want His name on your decision?

Colossians 3:17 (ESV)

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:23 (ESV)

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,

16.

Does the decision calm or increase your anxiety? (The peace of God in decision making should not produce anxiety.)

Philippians 4:6a (ESV)

do not be anxious about anything, ...

17.

Does the decision allow you to persevere in your faith? Or, are you making a decision to compromise your faith for personal comfort?

James 1:12 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

18.

Does the decision allow you to keep a vow or break a vow?

Numbers 30:2 (ESV)

If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

Psalms 50:14 (ESV)

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows to the Most High,

19.

Does the decision allow you to seek the kingdom of God?

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

20.

Does the decision allow you to work out your salvation in fear and trembling? Will it, in the end, grow your faith?

Philippians 2:12 (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

21.

Will the decision, in end, result in pleasing the Lord?

Ephesians 5:8-10 (ESV)

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

22.

Have you tested the decision in every way against Biblical principles?

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (ESV)

but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

23.

If you sense the leading of the Spirit in your decision, make sure you test that leading by the Word of God, written by the true Spirit of God.

1 John 4:1 (ESV)

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

24.

Are you using God's word to guide you so that through the decision God can further equip you and complete you in righteousness?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

25.

Have you bathed the decision in prayer? Prayer removes our anxiety over decisions!

Philippians 4:6a 7 (ESV)

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 7:7 (ESV)

Ask, and It Will Be Given

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

26.

Is the decision something that you can fully commit to God and He will use it to bring forth righteousness in your life?

Psalms 37:5-6 (ESV)

Commit your way to the LORD;

trust in him, and he will act.

He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.

27.

Does the decision go with the world, or does it cause you to go against the world?

Daniel 1:8 (ESV)

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

28.

Will the decision allow you to run faster with God or will it create weight that slows down your running with Christ? Will it cause you to run a marathon in snow shoes?

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

29.

Does the decision use your time wisely?

Colossians 4:5 (ESV)

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

30.

Does the decision allow you to follow the light of God's word?

Psalms 119:105 (ESV)

Your word is a lamp to my feet

and a light to my path.

31.

Does the decision allow you to follow Lady Folly or, Lady Wisdom?

Proverbs 7:21 (ESV) (Lady Folly)

With much seductive speech she persuades him;

with her smooth talk she compels him.

Proverbs 8:1 (ESV) (Lady Wisdom)

Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

And, in the end, does the decision produce peace:

James 3:17-18 (ESV)

MON But the wisdom from above is first pure, TUE then peaceable, gentle, WED open to reason, THU full of mercy and good fruits, FRI impartial and sincere. SAT And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace SUN by those who make peace.

Proverbs 16:33 (ESV)

The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.