



10 simple steps in making Wise Decisions (I'm encouraged because of my Choices)

Pastor Daren L. Barron | February 19, 2023

Be very clear about who your real guide is; whoever has control of your heart has control over you.

- Is it going to be Holy Spirit or spirit of the world?

Proverbs 3:1-7 New International Version

1 **My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,** 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. 3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. 5 **Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;** 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 **Do not be wise in your own eyes;** fear the Lord and shun evil.

Proverbs 4:23 New Living Translation

Guard your heart above all else for it determines the course of your life.

When you know who your real guide is, Pray for guidance

Proverbs 28:26 Amplified Bible

He who trusts confidently in his own heart is a [dull, thickheaded] fool, But he who walks in [skillful and godly] wisdom will be rescued.

James 1:5 Amplified Bible

If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide them through a decision or circumstance], they are to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to them.

- Don't just depend upon your opinion or intuition. None of us are 100 percent right all the time. Often intuition leads us to the wrong decision. As James 1:5 tells us, we need to ask God for wisdom to make the right decisions.

Ask for advice

Proverbs 24:6 Amplified Bible

For by wise guidance you can wage your war, And in an abundance of [wise] counselors there is victory and safety.

- Talk to someone who has taken a similar risk. It's good to learn from experience, but it's even better to learn from the experience of others. You don't need to make all the mistakes on your own. You simply don't have time. Review a concept called best practices.
- In this step, learn to ask good questions. Be prepared to write down those questions when you think about them, so you can ask them when the opportunity comes. One of the greatest blessings of a mentor is to discover a sincere mentee.

Get the facts; know the Truth!

Proverbs 4:7 Amplified Bible

"The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skillful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent]! And with all your acquiring, get understanding [actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation].

- Get all the information you can to help you make the right choice. Read a book, take a class, watch a seminar, or talk to an expert. Knowledge matters more than enthusiasm. Uneducated enthusiasm typically produces a non-delivered expectation.
- Study the difference between facts and truth.

John 14:6 New International Version

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Setting goals helps you avoid unwanted distractions

- Set your goals - You can't chase two rabbits at the same time. You must choose which goal to pursue! You don't have time to do everything. Pick what you want to focus on and do it.
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James 1:5-8 New Living Translation

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for 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.

- Never take risks just to prove yourself. Make sure you have a clear-cut purpose for every risk. Be like the trapeze artist: Don't let go of what you're holding onto until you know what you want to reach for. You don't need to have the goal within reach, but you need to know what that goal is.

Ezekiel 36:26 New King James Version

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Luke 6:45 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

The upright (honorable, intrinsically good) man out of the good treasure [stored] in his heart produces what is upright (honorable and intrinsically good), and the evil man out of the evil storehouse brings forth that which is depraved (wicked and intrinsically evil); for out of the abundance (overflow) of the heart his mouth speaks.