

# The Basics of Life: Decision Making

“The Responsibility of Freedom”

Ephesians 5:15-17

1. **A Biblical Premise:** God’s eternal purpose for every believer, revealed by his Moral will, and discovered through personal obedience, practical wisdom, and providential guidance. Embracing God’s purpose for our lives IS God’s will for our lives.

## 2. A Biblical Philosophy:

- ⇒ Discover God’s purpose and make decisions accordingly.
- ⇒ Embrace biblical wisdom and use God-given abilities to make decisions that please God.
- ⇒ God may use circumstance to guide you, but don’t assume that every opportunity is a “sign” from God.
- ⇒ Make decisions and trust in the providence of God.

## 3. A Biblical Process:

- ⇒ Let the Word speak:
  - Has God given a specific command about your decision?
  - Has God provided specific principles about your decision?
- ⇒ Let Wisdom speak:
  - Does it adversely affect my relationship with God?
  - Does it adversely affect my relationship with others?
  - Does it violate my conscience?
  - Does it violate the conscience of others?
  - Does it stand up under the weight of Godly counsel?
- ⇒ Let the Spirit speak:
  - Will this decision bring glory to God?
  - Has God providentially provided direction through my circumstances?

## 4. A Biblical Product:

- ⇒ Where God gives a command, we must obey.
- ⇒ Where there is no command, God gives us the freedom and responsibility to make the decision.
- ⇒ Where there is no command, God gives us the wisdom to make the decision.
- ⇒ When we have chosen what is moral and wise, we must make the decision and trust our Sovereign God to work all the details together for good.

# Journey Group Questions

1. Read Joshua 1:8.
2. Read Psalm 119:9-11. God's moral will, as found in Scripture, is a blueprint for success in our lives. Practically, how can you learn more about God's moral will and how has God's revealed moral will affected your life in the last several weeks?
3. Share with the group some decisions you've made in the past that were not grounded in biblical wisdom. What was the ultimate result and how would you change the decision if you could?
4. If God chooses to use circumstances in your life to help provide direction, can you know for sure that it was from God? Share with us a time when you let circumstances dictate a decision. What was the outcome?
5. How do you seek Scripture as your guide for decision making?

6. Read Proverbs 11:14; 13:20; 24:6. What does the Scripture say about seeing counsel? Is there value in this? How do you go about identifying people who could provide counsel for your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How do you know when the Spirit speaks in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What commands has God given you that seem unreasonable in your life situation? Share a time when God gave you a specific command, but you chose to not follow His guidance.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Occasionally, God provides you with equally good options. How do you put all the pieces together to make the decision? (Remember the model of primarily seeking God's moral will through Scripture).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Ultimately, God is Sovereign and we must make decisions and trust in His Sovereignty. With this in mind, how do we balance our freedom in decision making with God's Sovereignty? (Romans 8:28)