

Biblical Decision-Making Model

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Making a decision is a skill - one that takes practice. Big or little decisions are all vital.

This process can take a year, or a day. When you get good at it, you will find it becoming a part of even moment by moment decisions. (Key: "In Love Should Wear Deodorant." ILSWD.)

1. Identify Your Options.

- a. Ask for the Spirit of Wisdom to reveal the knowledge of God's will. (Col. 1:9-10)
- b. Write out all definitive options you have as possibilities.
- c. Keep the "other" option open.
 - i. "Other" means the option that you might not see at the moment.
- d. Keep in mind the most obvious answer can be, but is not always the Lord's Will.

2. List the Pro's, Con's, and Compare To Your Priorities.

- a. Under each option write out the positives and the negatives of that option.
- b. Compare these against your priorities in life.
 - i. If you don't know your priorities, begin to establish them. (This could take months or minutes.)
 1. Our Priorities: Jesus, Spouse, Family, Mission/Career/Calling . . .

3. Seek Advice.

- a. Find 2 or 3 trusted people that you can share the above information with, and ask them for their advice. You might have more than 3, but guard against too much input.
 - i. Proverbs 11:14 - "For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure."
 - ii. Proverbs 20:18 - "Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance."

4. Wait/Pray/Fast even. (SiWiHiA)

- a. If you practice His presence, this becomes second nature: (Be Still, Wait, Hear, Act)
 - i. The Spirit of Wisdom/Jesus' voice is here, so GET Wisdom & listen. (Prov. 4:5&7; 2:2,6,&10)
 - ii. This also is a discipline that doesn't come quickly. Practice for future decisions. (Ps.91:1)
- b. Normally we act before we check with God, and then ask Him to bless us or cover us when things don't work out. This is common in our immaturity. When we belong to Him first, then our thoughts, actions, and lives are centered only on completing His will, our "to do" list while on earth.
 - i. Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ to do good works which He has prepared in advance for us to do." (Psalm 139:15-16)
- c. Psalm 37:7 - "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;"
- d. Hebrews 9:14 - "How much more will the blood of Christ . . . cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death so that we might serve the living God."
- e. Proverbs 16:9 - "In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

5. Decide.

- a. If you have diligently sought to hear the LORD's voice, and prudently followed these steps, then no matter what comes (good, bad, or ugly) you can be confident you have done everything possible to hear the LORD and be in His will. Keep in mind that just because you make a decision that leads you into a season of refining where it feels like the wheels are coming off, doesn't mean you missed His voice. If you follow these steps you can live life 'fret-free' in the midst of trial or triumph!
- b. Matthew 5:37 - "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no, everything else is from the evil one."