

Decision making and the will of God

How do we make decisions in the Kingdom?

Anyone struggle with decisions and knowing how to make them?
Do we just choose our own direction?
Do we have to, "get a word?"
How do we know when it is God? If it is God?

Paul shares some insight to how he lives. Listen to the language of Paul as he describes his personal process with the Lord in regards to a decision for direction:

1 Corinthians 16

*I am coming to visit you after I have been to Macedonia, **for I am planning** to travel through Macedonia. **It could be** that I will stay awhile with you, **perhaps all** winter, and then you can send me on my way to the next destination. This time I don't want to make just a short visit and then go right on. I want to come and stay awhile, **if the Lord will let me**. In the meantime, I will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost, for **there is a wide-door** for a great work here, and many people are responding. But there are many who oppose me.*

*For I am planning
It could be
Perhaps all
if the Lord will let me
There is a wide door for a great work here...*

I want to share what has taken me through life.

My CFNI moment...

What I learned...

Psalm 37v4

*Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you your heart's desires.*

1 Delight in the Lord. Develop your ear to hear & your eyes to see.

- The root word, "delight," is to find enjoyment, as in something luxurious
- "he will give you," is a phrase that means, "to grant or place, to release to you."
- "desires," is to be understood as the things we long for.

The easiest way to understand it is that He will put those desires within you.

Invite Him into you life, not your plans

Q: Do we believe He is good? (Luke 11)

- The answer to this changes how we move into relationship. It controls how we understand him.
- Consider David...he was a man with a bad father image, yet he moved into a great understanding of the Heavenly father. If he can, we can.

Psalm 119v105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path

2 Live in the wisdom of His revealed will.

- The Scriptures reveal an incredible amount of His will.

The two words, "lamp and light," create a picture of something naturally dark being illuminated. It is the idea of something that was not seen, now being visible.

This is what the Scriptures do for our life. They are the place that God reveals His will.

- He tells us what matters to Him in his Word.

Proverbs 16v9

We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.

Proverbs 21v5

Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

3. Make your plan.

-This should teach us that a failure to plan is a plan to fail.

Proverbs 15v22

Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success.

4. Get Counsel

-Requires community

-Restricts us from playing the, "God card" (explain)

Proverbs 16v3

Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed.

5. Surrender your plan.

The root word is, "to roll away,"

It is the idea of exposing something. It is an invitation to share and vet something with the Lord.

Yet, this is where so many people fail. They are afraid of inviting the Lord because of a misunderstanding of His heart.

James 4v13-15

Look here, you people who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit." How do you know what will happen tomorrow? For your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." Otherwise you will be boasting about your own plans, and all such boasting is evil.

6. Move into the open doors.

-Don't over think it. If you have moved through these steps, then move through the doors that open

-Follow your favor. What is he doing in your life?

1 Corinthians 16

will be staying here at Ephesus until the Festival of Pentecost, for there is a wide-door for a great work here, and many people are responding. But there are many who oppose me.

7. Understand opposition doesn't mean it is the wrong direction.

Opportunity & Opposition are both aspects of God's will.

Too often, we bail when it is tough.

"all things work together.." ...it is a process, not a moment.

Acts 16v6-10

Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had told them not to go into the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not let them go. So, instead, they went through Mysia to the city of Troas.

That night, Paul had a vision. He saw a man from Macedonia in northern Greece, pleading with him, "Come over here and help us." So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, for we could only conclude that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.

8. Be sensitive to Holy Spirit interruptions.

Paul had a dream...just one, and from that determined direction and followed it.

He was open to the simple leading of the Holy Spirit. If that happens, follow it. But if it doesn't, assume the

Lord is big enough to tell you if he wanted you to change direction.

Wrap up:

Live face to face, Live the Word, then Plan, Ask, and surrender to His counsel. From there, walk in what is open. Simple. No smoke, no mirrors.

Your Father is for you. He is not against you.