

November 11, 2018

“Growing 101”

“Introduction to Foundational Principles”

“Making Right Decisions: A New Direction”

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

A. Do you want to know where your new GPS (God’s Positioning System) is taking you?

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

1. Begin by trusting with all your heart.

“I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

2. Do not depend on your own understanding.

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

3. Seek His will in all you do.

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33

4. He will show you which path to take!

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.’” John 14:6

B. Do you want to know how to find God’s will for your life?

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2

There are two ways to understand God’s will:

1. God chooses...

“He went on a little farther and bowed with His face to the ground, praying, ‘My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from Me. Yet I want Your will to be done, not Mine.’” Matthew 26:39

“In fact, this has happened here in this very city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, Your holy servant, whom You anointed. But everything they did was determined beforehand according to Your will.” Acts 4:27-28

- There are times when God’s will is set in place and does not change.
- God’s plan for man and for the future lies within His divine direction for life and must be fulfilled.
- Suffering for doing good may come to our lives and God uses it in His will.

“Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!” 1 Peter 3:17

“Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for He chose us in advance, and He makes everything work out according to His plan.” Ephesians 1:11
“All the people of the earth are nothing compared to Him. He does as He pleases among the angels of heaven and among the people of the earth. No one can stop Him or say to Him, ‘What do you mean by doing these things?’” Daniel 4:35

d. This is the time when we have to surrender and say, “Yet I want Your will to be done, not mine”.

2. God gives us the choices...

a. God’s will can be violated by our own choices.

“Not everyone who calls out to Me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in heaven will enter.” Matthew 7:21

“And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

b. By choosing God’s will, we have eternal life.

“And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:17

“Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:18

c. We serve a God who is strong enough to turn everything around for good.

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.” Romans 8:28

- We serve a God who is not only strong enough to turn everything around for good, He is near enough to empathize with all that comes to us.

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin.” Hebrews 4:15

C. So...to discover the will of God...

1. Know the will of God by knowing God’s Word.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. Get in line with God’s will by having your will be His will...and then THINK!

“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:32

“Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.” John 17:17

3. Live it out by changing your heart and mind to His heart and His mind!

“...For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart...” Matthew 12:34b-36

“A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad.” Matthew 12:33

“Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.”

Hebrews 5:14

“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand (discern) what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return.”

Philippians 1:9-10

Romans 12:1-2

**A NEW DIRECTION:
HOW TO MAKE RIGHT DECISIONS**

Life is a daily process of decision-making by which we can either glorify God or self. Whether we are a spiritual success or failure, is determined by choice, not by circumstance. Our decisions reveal what we are today and what we are going to become tomorrow.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST DECISION I AM FACED WITH TODAY?

COMPARE THE OLD LIFE WITH THE NEW LIFE:

The Old Life:

1. Self-centered choices
2. Conformed to world
- 3.
- 4.

The New Life:

1. Christ-centered choices
2. Transformed by Christ
- 3.
- 4.

Every new Christian has questions about the future. How will this new life work out? What about God’s will for my life? Will God really lead me? How can I make right decisions?

God promises to lead as you rely on Him completely. He can guide you perfectly because He knows all your needs and has infinite wisdom, power, and riches to give you the best life possible. As a new Christian, you will be faced with many decisions. In this lesson, we will study how God helps us make the right choices in life.

I. WE CAN MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS IF WE UNDERSTAND GOD’S CHARACTER AND PROMISES TO US.

1. According to our memory verses, what three things are we told to do?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

2. When we do our part, what does God promise He will do in Proverbs 3:6b?

3. Why should we not try to make decisions on human reasoning alone? Isaiah 55:8-9

4. What is the warning that God gives to those who trust in earthly wisdom? Jeremiah 17:5

5. What does God do for those who trust Him? Isaiah 41:10 and Psalms 32:10

II. WE CAN MAKE RIGHT DECISIONS IF WE ARE WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

1. What principle, described in John 14:10, did Jesus follow in making decisions?

2. Romans 12:1-2 gives us the steps to experience God’s will.

- a)
- b)
- c)

3. Discuss how our minds are renewed:

III. WE MUST REALIZE THAT EVERY DECISION HAS A CONSEQUENCE.

1. A consequence of a wrong choice. Read about David in 2 Samuel 11.

4. A consequence of a right choice. Read about Joseph in Genesis 39.

IV. DISCUSS THESE SIX STEPS TO A RIGHT DECISION.

1. Pray and ask for wisdom. James 1:5 & 55
2. Base decisions upon the whole counsel of God. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
3. Think through the consequences of your decisions.
4. Consider all the options.
5. Choose the right time to make the decision.
6. Confirm your decision.
 - a. Seek spiritual counsel from godly people. Proverbs 11:14 & Hebrews 13:17
 - b. Rely on the Holy Spirit’s direction. 1 Corinthians 2:12

CHALLENGE: Follow Moses’ example in Exodus.

1. Moses began his journey with God the same as we do-- fearful and lacking confidence. Exodus 2, 3.
2. Moses learned that God is more trustworthy than his own feelings. Exodus 15:11-13.

QUESTION: How can I make right decisions?

APPLICATION:

- List some of the aspects of your daily life to apply to make the right decision: job, leisure time, spending money, Christian ministry...
- Select one area and discuss how you can better acknowledge God’s leadership of your life.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Discuss the significance of these three decisions:

a. Which God will you serve?

b. Which person will you marry?

c. Which vocation will you follow?

2. How does the decision to make Christ Lord affect all areas of our lives? Romans 12:1, 2

3. Describe a situation that confronts you presently in which you need to seek God's guidance.

- The **PROCLAMATION** Test- Philippians 2:15
Will this void my witness for Christ?
- The **PEACE** Test- Philippians 4:6-7
After praying about it, can I do it and have peace?

CONCLUSION: Continually apply these 10 scriptural tests to all thoughts, words, and actions.

- The **PURITY** Test- 1 Corinthians 6:19
Can I do this to the body where Christ dwells?
- The **PARTICIPATION** Test - 1 John 2:15-16
Will doing this take my eyes off Jesus?
- The **POLITE** Test - Romans 14:7, 21
How will doing this affect others?
- The **PARTNER** Test - Colossians 3:17
Could I invite Christ to do this with me?
- The **PUBLIC** Test - 1 Thessalonians 5:22
Will doing this give the appearance of doing wrong?
- The **PRESENCE** Test - 1 John 2:28
Would I be ashamed of doing this upon Christ's return?
- The **PROBLEM** Test - Hebrews 12:1
Will this hinder my NEW LIFE in Christ?
- The **PROOF** Test- Romans 12:9
Is this good for me physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually?