

Theology of Decision Making

Practical Theology 101

Coast School of Theology; Pastor Earl Miles; July 22, 2018

3 Basic Approaches

How do Christians make decisions regarding God's will for their life?

1. *The Sign Reading Approach:* God is trying to tell me what to do throughout my day, I just need to read the signs and do what He is telling me to do.
2. *The Relational Approach:* God wants me to be in relationship with Him and the more I get to know Him, the better I will be able to know and do what He wants me to do.
3. *The Wisdom Approach:* God has told me what to do (commands) through His written Word, the Bible, which includes the commands to be wise and to do what I desire.

What is a Biblical framework for thinking about decision making?

1. **God guides His children (who want to do His will).** Psalm 23:3; Psalm 32:8; Psalm 73:24; Psalm 25:12; John 7:17
2. **Decision making is about doing God's will.** Mark 3:35; John 7:17; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 6:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 10:7; Hebrews 10:36; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 John 2:17
3. **What you decide to do is God's will.** Daniel 4:35; Ephesians 1:11; Acts 21:14
4. **What God commands you to do is God's will.** Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42; 1 Thessalonians 4:3
5. **God wants us to follow His revealed will (the Bible), not His secret will.** Deuteronomy 29:29; John 21:21-22; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; James 1:22; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3
6. **God wants me to do what is right according to His Word.** Genesis 2:16-17; Deuteronomy 26:16; Jeremiah 31:33; Matthew 5:19; Matthew 15:3; Matthew 28:19-20; John 12:49; John 14:15; John 14:31; John 15:10; John 15:14; Romans 13:9; 1 Corinthians 7:19; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 1 John 2:3; 1 John 3:22; 1 John 5:3; 2 John 1:6; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:12; Matthew 7:24
7. **God wants me to do what is wise in light of His Word, the counsel of others, circumstances, resources, and giftings.** 1 Kings 10:24; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 5:15-21; James 3:13

God has not given us a command for every situation or decision, but He has given us principles that apply. When there is no command to obey, we are responsible to wisely apply the principles in God's Word. - Matthew 19:19; Proverbs 6:6; Ecclesiastes 12:11

God calls us to humbly seek wise counsel from others. - Proverbs 12:15; Proverbs 20:18; Proverbs 24:6

We should use the gifts and resources God has given for His glory and the good of others. - Exodus 31:6; Exodus 35:34

We are often to simply do what seems good. - Leviticus 10:19-20; 1 Samuel 1:23; 1 Samuel 14:36; 2 Samuel 18:4; Luke 1:3; Acts 15:22; Acts 15:25; Acts 15:28; Hebrews 12:10

- 8. God wants me to do what I want to do when I have more than one good option.** 1 Corinthians 7:36, 39
- 9. Impressions, the 'still small voice', and spiritual 'nudges' should all be evaluated on the basis of what is right and wise.** Proverbs 28:6; Ecclesiastes 10:2; Nehemiah 7:5; John 13:2; 2 Corinthians 8:16; Revelation 17:1
- 10. Circumstances and experiences that seem to point in a particular direction should all be evaluated on the basis of what is right and wise.** Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 16:25
- 11. The words of men, including 'God told me to tell you type prophecies' should all be evaluated on the basis of what is right and wise.** James 3:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22
- 12. God has used special means of guidance in the past (only in unique situations in the history of redemption) but we are not to expect God to do so today.** Acts 16:9-10; Hebrews 1:1-2; Ephesians 2:19-22
- 13. Intimate knowledge of God through His Word is important for the cultivation of wisdom.** Jeremiah 4:22; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 12:7
- 14. God doesn't want me to be paralyzed in decision making, but to trust Him to work every decision for my good and His glory.** Romans 8:28

Conclusion

God's written Word, the Bible, is what His children should expect God to use on a daily basis to guide them, by His Spirit applying it to their hearts and circumstances, as the only objective authority for knowing what God's will is for their lives.