

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

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"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil 4:13.

It seems in these days that we are surrounded with many decisions that need to be made. They press upon us and it is easy to worry about the best direction to take. Sometimes we wish for the good ole' days when it seemed to be easier to live. However, God promises to help us to decide in a way that will please Him. We must trust Him fully to lead us in the very center of His will. We can tackle difficult decisions in several Biblical ways. The key is to lean upon His strength and wisdom. First, (1). **Start With Prayer:** *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* Phil. 4:6. We know God sees us daily and watches over us constantly. We need to practice childlike faith and bring every decision unto Him and He stands ready to assist in the right steps to take. Don't hesitate but bring everything without exception in prayer before Him. He will lead you in a path that will not result in failure but will lead you to do right. Bathe your troubles and difficult decisions in prayer. (2). **Consider Options:** *"Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste."* Isa, 28:16. It is wise to think carefully about the decision that you will make. Sometimes a list of pros and cons will help line things up in proper order. Ask "what if I don't and what if I do." God will patiently impress on your heart that which is

the best. Learn to listen for His direction from the Word and sense His direction through His Spirit. Don't rush into something you don't understand but prayerfully await His leading in the decision to be made. Remember, He will never lead the saint in that which is wrong. A seeking soul will find the right path as you lean upon the Lord. (3). **Ask Questions:** *"And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."* Luke 11:9&10. There are six good questions to ask yourself to arrive at the right decision. (1). **What Does The Bible Say:** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Psm. 119:105. You will always do well when you seek direction from your Bible. You will discover the people of the Bible faced many of the same problems, and how they solved them. The Bible is a textbook of victorious Christian living. Read it daily, and copy out a list of verses on various subjects to help you know the will of God. Learn good directional verses and stay out of trouble. They are guides. I repeat, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."* Psa. 119:105. Look for encouragement in the Word of God. (2). **What Will It Cost:** *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he will have sufficient to finish it?"* Luke: 14:28. Many long to live above their means, and involve themselves in expensive unnecessary situations. Consider carefully the cost and your resources to pay the bill. God will often step in and help, but He will not participate in error. Use prayer to help you decide if the cost can be met in the mercies of God. Have faith that God will meet the need if it brings glory to His name. (3). **It's Affect On Me And Others:** *"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his*

brother's way" Rom. 14:13. You should never make a decision that will injure your own life and testimony for God. All must mirror your life, lived for Christ alone. Never make a choice that will destroy your testimony. We are told not to love the things of the world for they will pollute your mind and body and destroy your personal victory. Will this decision help or hinder my testimony for God? That is a very good question. Your final decision should not hinder you, nor bring problems to others. We are to love one another, and live to be a blessing. Our victories should encourage others to seek the blessings and direction of the Lord.

(4). Help Or Hinder My Objectives: *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* I Cor. 10:31. This verse is very clear. A decision that brings disgrace to you, and dishonor to God, would be a bad one. We are to constantly desire to be Christlike, and our main objective should be that the world will see Christ in us. The actions of the daily things of life should be seen as a day by day example of Christian living. If your appearance does not mirror Christ, then you need to check on the decisions you have made. His will and direction should always be sought. He has promised to be with us always.

(5). Will It Compromise My Convictions? *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being nor a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."* James 1:22-25. If you belong to a good fundamental church and the Bible is clearly preached you will form some good convictions. Your life will be vastly different from sinners around you. Following your convictions will help you

arrive at the right decision every time. We all need rules to live by, and the Word of God lists them clearly. Living by the consistent standards of God will show you right or wrong for the best decision. They help you to be strong and able to defeat temptation that swirls around you. If you don't stand for something you will fall for everything. Compromise always signifies weakness. Be strong in the Lord as you seek His will in the things of life.

(6) Mature Christians Advice: *"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in a multitude of counselors there is safety."* Pr. 11:14. *"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established."* Pr. 15:22. Your pastor will always be a good man to seek out for decisions that challenge you. He has great experience through the years of his ministry with many people. You young people need to seek out the advice of your Godly parents. They have gone through many ups and downs, as they have matured in family living. You might perhaps consult a special Sunday School teacher, or if a youth, your Youth Director. In every good church you can spot someone who always is known for a cool head and right actions. It is good for us all to have accountable buddies to share with. Never hesitate to share decisions with others older than yourselves and experienced in Christian living.

(7). Allow God To Work: *"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* Phil. 2:13. This is a great verse of assurance, that above every problem God stands ready to direct you in the right path, according to His pleasure. Such a personal relationship to Christ helps us to face every problem, and decide in a way that will please Him. He may ask us to wait a while, or approach the decision from another angle. You can be sure what He leads you will be the right answer to every decision. Closing question...**Would Jesus Do It?**