



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

Basic Life Skills: Making Decisions

Life Reference: Proverbs 3:1-6

Focus Verse:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;” (Proverbs 3:5).

Why is our world in so much trouble? Do you notice when you pick up the newspaper that articles abound on trouble in our nation, communities, families, marriages, and even on introspection our individual lives? How much of this trouble is the result of decisions that others make? Do the individual decisions that we make have any bearing on the conditions in our lives? Would our lives improve if we were more skilled in making wise decisions?

God’s Word tells us that mankind does not have the ability within ourselves to make sound decisions. We cannot lean on our own understanding (what we know). We need help.

Proverbs 3:5	“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”
Proverbs 20:24	“ Man’s goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own ways?”
Jeremiah 10:23-24 (New King James Version)	“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. O LORD, correct me, but with justice”



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Life Reflection:

Why do you feel there is there so much pain, confusion, instability, insecurity, and uncertainty in many of our lives?

Do you sense a lack of peace, patience, hope, and blessing in your own life?

Do you feel that you lean more on our own understanding when faced with decisions? Or do you sincerely seek to find direction from the Word of God?

In reflection, do we serve God with our lips but our hearts are far from him?

**“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life”
(Proverbs 4:23).**

Are there any answers to life’s dilemmas and challenges? Is there a dependable source of wisdom and knowledge? To whom can we turn for help, guidance for making right decisions? Must each generation make the same mistakes as the previous? Where can we find the “wisdom of the ages”?

The answer is in God, Who created each of us and planned every detail of our lives before we were born. Fortunately for us, He does not leave us to flounder alone in our search to find direction. He is personally involved in each of our lives. His Word provides steps we can use to make wise choices when making decisions.

1. Acknowledge God in all your life.

We need the Lord’s direction and many times His correction to find the best path for our life.

Proverbs 3:6	“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
Proverbs 9:10-11	“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days





	shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."
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If we will fear God, trust Him, acknowledge Him with all of our heart in all matters of life, then we find direction, wisdom, knowledge, and long life.

2. Make decisions based on priorities and values.

Life on earth is brief. Death is inevitable. Eternity lasts forever.

We must make our decisions based on priorities and values in view of eternity. C. S. Lewis stated, "All that is not eternal is eternally useless."

<p>"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:18).</p>
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Remember, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.

The closer we live to God; the smaller everything else appears. We are never completely fulfilled and happy on earth because we are not supposed to be. Heaven is our home and preferred destination.

We need to examine our priorities. We need to live this life for eternity, keeping the end in mind. We need to place the kingdom of God first and seek purity over prosperity. My mother often quoted, "Only one life, so soon it will pass; only what's done for Christ will really last." When we look at life in this context, we will make better choices.

<p>"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:33-34, New King James Version).</p>

3. Follow the directions that God provides.

<p>Psalm 111:10 Proverbs 6:20-23 Proverbs 8:10-11</p>	<p>Wise guidance for every decision in life can be found in the Word of God. If we search the Scriptures, we will find answers to all of life's situations.</p>
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<p>Psalm 37:23-24 Acts 15:28 Romans 8:14</p>	<p>God will speak to us through His Spirit. In reading the Book of Acts we find that they were led by the Spirit in making decisions, "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us . . ."</p>
<p>Proverbs 1:5-8 Proverbs 15:22 Hebrews 13:7-8</p>	<p>God will provide wise counsel through His people. These may be teachers, pastors, those in spiritual leadership, parents, or godly friend.</p>

Life Reflection:

How do you make sound decisions?

What lessons, if any, have you learned from decisions that you have made? Reflect on the decisions you have made that turned out well and the ones that didn't. What was the difference between the two?

Life Response:

Prayer is our means of communicating with God and understanding His plan and guidance for our life. The above steps when combined with dedicate time in prayer, will bring the peace that we have made the best decision. We often spend more time and energy fretting and worrying about a decision than we do in actually praying about that decision. Take time to listen to God's voice. Your heavenly Father is more than eager to give wisdom for the decisions you make—if only you ask Him.

<p>Philippians 4:6,7 (New King James Version)</p>	<p>"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."</p>
<p>Ephesians 6:18</p>	<p>"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."</p>





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We can be confident that God will complete the plan that He has for our lives.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

My Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You for giving me guidance through the reading of Your Word for every decision in life that I make. I thank You, Lord, for also directing me through Your spirit and godly people that You have placed in my life. Help me to live each day as if it were my final day on earth. *Amen.*

More Life with God References:

Psalm 73
Psalm 37:23-24
Proverbs 1:5-8
Romans 8:26-28

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