



SERIES: MY LIFE WITH GOD

I Need Advice

Life Reference: I Kings 12:6-9

Focus Verse:

“Without counsel purposes are disappointed; but in the multitude of counsellors they are established” (Proverbs 15:22).

Two friends recently faced decisions. The first plunged ahead, neither asking nor accepting advice, human or divine. The decision was based on personal desire and money. The second friend approached her situation with caution and prayer. She also sought counsel from family and trusted, godly friends. It's too soon to know the outcome in either case, but it's easy to see which has the better chance of a positive outcome.

I Kings 12 tells the story of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. He started correctly by consulting the older men who had advised his father. Had he listened, the history of Israel could have been so different. Instead, he sought out his peers and asked for their advice. That is the advice he chose to follow.

“But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him” (I Kings 12:8).



Life Reflection:

When facing important decisions, do you seek the counsel of others?

Is there one person you go to most often? If so, why are you comfortable in receiving advice from that person?

What qualities do you look for in an advisor?

Steps in Making Good Decisions

How do we make good decisions? Begin by asking these four questions.

1. What does God say?

We must first pray and examine the Word. If Scripture commands something, there is no question. If Scripture forbids something, we have the answer and need to obey.

"Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength" (Proverbs 8:14).

2. What do advisors say?

Something may not be unscriptural, but neither may it be wise. This is why it's good to seek the advice of others.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14).

3. What do circumstances say?

Has a door opened—or closed? Not all open doors are God's will, so that cannot be the only determining factor. Carefully consider all open doors. Some may be closed for now. This could



be a matter of timing rather than something God never wants us to do. It is important to never get ahead of God. We have the assurance that God has a plan for our lives. We must ask, "Where has God been leading me?" We must filter what happens in our lives in context of His overall plan for us.

"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand" (Isaiah 14:24).

4. What does common sense say?

Does the matter seem reasonable? Yes, God may ask us to step out in faith to fulfill His plan, but He gives us a sound mind to know His good and perfect will. Remember, if something is God's will for us, He will provide the way for it to come to pass.

Paul advises in I Thessalonians 5:21, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." This is advice we should all follow.

Many of life's circumstances are created by three basic choices: the disciplines you choose to keep, the people you choose to be with, and the laws you choose to obey."
—Charles Millhuff

Life Response:

What we consider a "small" decision may actually change the course of our life. Rushing ahead without first seeking guidance through prayer and godly counsel can lead to disaster. There is wisdom in knowing when to respect the advice given, even when it may not seem important or logical.

The story of Esther, the Jewish maiden chosen queen, illustrates how accepting good advice from a trusted advisor is important. When taken into the court of King Ahasuerus, Esther accepted the advice of her cousin Mordecai to conceal her heritage. "Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it. (Esther 2:10, NKJV). Because she trusted his advice, she saved her life and the lives of her people.



Life Reflection:

Do you usually seek advice from more than one person on a situation?

How do you usually respond to unsolicited advice?

Have you ever been tempted to go against the advice of your pastor? What was the outcome?

My Prayer:

Lord, when facing important decisions, help me to be sensitive to Your will and plan for my life. Direct me to wise counselors who will advise me according to the principles found in Your Word. Help me to examine my heart to be sure I am truly seeking to make choices that honor You and fulfill Your plan and purpose for me.

More Life with God References:

Examine biblical examples of how others made decisions based on the advice of others.

Moses (Exodus 18:13-27)

King Saul (I Chronicles 10:13-14)

Ahaziah and Athaliah (II Chronicles 22:2-4)

Naaman (II Kings 5)

Job and his wife (Job 2:9)

"When one bases his life on principle, 99 percent of his decisions are already made."

— Anonymous

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