



August 25, 2024  
Eileen Berry

*Basic Principles about Decision-Making*

1. God wants to guide us.
  - a. He describes Himself as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Psalm 23; John 10:4)
  
  - b. He describes Himself as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Isaiah 9:6)
  
  - c. His Word gives promises of guidance. (Psalm 31:3;  
Isaiah 58:11)

- d. His guidance extends throughout our lives. (Psalm 48:14; Psalm 73:23-24)
  
  - e. Guidance was one of Jesus' purposes in giving us the \_\_\_\_\_ . (John 16:13)
2. Scripture presents certain conditions for receiving God's guidance.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 25:9)
  
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 32:9)
  
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:42)
  
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:6-7)

3. God has put safeguards in place so that we can make wise decisions.

What is wisdom?

### *Safeguards for Making Wise Decisions*

1. The prayerful use of God's Word
  - a. In prayer we commit our \_\_\_\_\_ to God.  
(James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 16:3; Philippians 4:6-7)
    - "Resolve that whatever pleases God shall please us."  
(Matthew Henry)
    - Scripture gives us examples of both prayerful and prayerless decisions.

b. God's Word is His \_\_\_\_\_ for us. We use wisdom to apply it when making decisions.

- Prayerful study and meditation on the Word brings flourishing. (Psalm 1:1-3)
  
- Psalm 19:7, 11—God's Word gives wisdom to the simple; gives warnings.
  
- Psalm 119:24—God's testimonies are our counsellors.
  
- Psalm 119:105—God's Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
  
- ❖ Notice specific \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- ❖ Discern \_\_\_\_\_ that can be worked out through different passages in Scripture.
  
- ❖ Take instruction from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's people in Scripture.

- John Newton: “He guides and directs His people, by affording them, in answer to prayer, the light of His Holy Spirit, which enables them to understand and to love the Scriptures. The Word of God is not to be used as a lottery, nor is it designed to instruct us by shreds and scraps, which, detached from their proper places, have no determinate import; but it is to furnish us with just principles, right apprehensions to regulate our judgments and affections, and thereby influence and direct our conduct.”
- Sometimes the answer isn’t clear because the Lord is asking us to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Godly Counsel

- Parents’ instruction. (Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 29:3a)
- Other godly believers. (Proverbs 27:9; Proverbs 27:17)

### 3. God's Providence

- a. God expects me to prayerfully plan, but ultimately, He directs my steps. (Proverbs 16:1, 9)
  
- b. God can turn my heart and the hearts of others involved in my decisions. (Proverbs 21:1)
  
- c. God may sometimes choose to intervene and overrule in my plans and decisions. (James 4:13-15)
  - Our safety lies in being as close to God as we can be! (Pastor Minnick)
  
  - Nothing can hinder God's "Plan A" for my life. (Romans 8:28-30)

## Resources

### *Books:*

Ferguson, Sinclair B. *Discovering God's Will*. Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 1982.

Petty, James C. *Guidance: Have I Missed God's Best?* Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R, 2003.

### *Sermons:*

"Decision-Making Security." (Parts 1 and 2) May 4 and 11, 2022. (Dr. Mark Minnick)

"Wise Fatherly Counsel." June 16, 2024. (Dr. Mark Minnick)

Produced and distributed by: Mount Calvary Baptist Church © 2024  
Unless otherwise noted, Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
Copyright, ©1960,1962,1963, 1968,1971,1972,1973,1975,1977,1995 by the Lockman  
Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org)