



WALKING *In* WISDOM

How To Make Wise Decisions

Ephesians 5:15-21

EPHESIANS 5:15-21 (NKJV)

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

WALKING *In* WISDOM

BE CAREFUL

THOUGHTS



EYES

EARS

DEEDS



HANDS

FEET

WORDS



MOUTH



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◆ **Necessary Qualities** -Prov. 3:1-12

- * **Hunger** to learn & understand God's word / will - (vv. 1-4)
- * **Trust** in God and not our own understanding (vv. 5-6),
- * **Fear** God / do not be wise in our own eyes (vv. 7-8),
- * **Honor** God and do not fail to give to Him what He demands (vv. 9-10)
- * **Appreciate** God / do not rebel against His discipline (vv. 11-12).

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◆ **Necessary Actions**

- * **Feed upon, retain, keep, love, exalt, hold on to, give attention to, incline your heart to God's word** - (Prov. 4:1-22; Ps 119:9-16; 1 Pet 2:2; Acts 17:11,12; Rom 10:17; James 1:5)
- * **Govern your intake, actions & associates** - eyes, ears, hands & feet - (Mt 5:22; Prov 1:10-15; 1 Cor 15:33; etc.)
- * **Purify your thoughts, desires & deeds** - (Ps 119:9; Ez. 18:31; Jas 4:7-10; Mat 23:25,26; Rom. 12:1-3; 1 Jn 3:3).

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Requires “PURPOSE”



- * **Desire** – to please God / doing what’s right – Mat. 5:6; Ps. 42:1,2
- * **Decide** – to serve the Lord and commit yourself – Josh. 24:15; Ps. 119:106; Acts 11:23
- * **Determine** – to keep clean from sin – Dan. 1:5; Job 31:1; Heb 11:24-27

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How To Make Wise Decisions

Must “VALUE” Wisdom

✧ **Establish Spiritual Priorities**

✧ Our Decision To Follow God (or Not) Affects EVERY Other Decision We Make – Mat. 6:33; Mark 12:29-31; Col. 1:9-11; Prov. 1:7

✧ Wise Decision Making Is In Direct Correlation To The Degree In Which We Respect, Love, & Trust God & Understand His Revealed Will.



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How To Make Wise Decisions

Must “VALUE” Wisdom



PROVERBS 4:5-13 (NKJV)

⁵ **Get wisdom!** Get understanding!
Do not forget, nor turn away from
the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not
forsake her, and she will preserve
you; **Love her**, and she will keep you.

⁷ **Wisdom is the principal thing;**
Therefore get wisdom. And in all your
getting, get understanding.

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How To Make Wise Decisions

Must “VALUE” Wisdom



PROVERBS 4:5-13 (NKJV)

⁸ **Exalt her**, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you.” ¹⁰ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

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Must “VALUE” Wisdom

PROVERBS 4:5-13 (NKJV)

¹¹ I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. ¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. ¹³ **Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.**



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PROVERBS 4:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But the path of the just *is* like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. ¹⁹ The way of the wicked *is* like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.



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Requires “Knowledge”



- * **Reverence God** – Prov. 1:7
- * **Desire the word of God** – Psalm 19:7-11; 1 Pet. 2:1; 2 Thes 2:12
- * **Learn the truth** - to be set free from sin & error – John 8:32; Acts 17:11; 2 Pet. 3:14-18; 2 Tim 3:16,17
- * **Rightly divide the word of truth** – 2 Tim. 2:15; Heb 5:13

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Requires “Faith”



- * **Trusting God's promises and instructions** – Romans 4:16-21; 2 Kings 5:14; Mark 16:16
- * **Counting the spiritual rewards of faithfulness far better than the material rewards of sin** – Heb. 11:24-27
- * **Trusting God in times of trial** – Job 1:21; James 1:2-8

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Requires “Preparation”



- * **Renewing our mind** - Rom. 12:1-3; Col. 3:1,2; Mat 15:17-20
- * **Departing from iniquity** - 2 Tim 2:20-23; Col. 3:5-10
- * **Training our heart and will** - Prov. 4:23; 1 Tim 4:7,8; Heb. 5:14; Gal. 5:22,23; Col. 3:12-14
- * **Diligence / watchful** - 2 Pet 1:5-10; 3:14; Mat 26:41

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*

Will I Commit Sin?



Sin Is
Avoidable –
1 Cor. 10:13

- * **Adam & Eve** – Gen 3:1-13; Rom 5:12
- * **Cain & Abel** – Gen 4:1-10; Heb 11:4
- * **Joseph** – Gen 39:7-12
- * **Moses** – Num 20:7-12; Heb 11:23-27
- * **David** – 2 Samuel 11:1-12:14; 1 Chronicles 13:1-12; 15:1-13
- * **Jesus** – Mat. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*

Who Will Be My:

■ My Role Model? –

- 👁 Some actor, musician, athlete, author, teacher, . . .
- 👁 Jesus? – 1 Pet. 2:21; 1 Cor. 11:1; Mat. 16:24-27; Heb 12:1-3

■ My Friends? – 1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 1:10-19; 13:20; 14:26

■ My Spouse? – Mat. 19:3-9



Sin Is
Avoidable –
1 Cor. 10:13

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*

Where Will I:

■ Go to school? –

- 👁 Known for its Godless teachers & Students –
- 👁 Some offer more encouragement, while others offer more temptation.

■ Live & Work? –

- 👁 Spiritual support? – Gen. 13:5-11
- 👁 Hours? Travel? People? Stability? Money? – 2 Cor. 6:14-18

Sin Is

Avoidable –

1 Cor. 10:13

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*

Important Questions



- Can it be done in the name of Christ? – Col. 3:17
- Can I prove it to be right? - 1 Thes 5:21
- Can it be done to the glory of God? - 1 Cor. 10:31
- Will it edify me? – 1 Cor. 10:23
- Would it be a weight or hindrance? – Heb 12:1

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*

Important Questions



- What are the likely consequences? - Gal. 6:7
- Would it **LIKELY** be a stumbling block to others? - 1 Cor. 8:9
- Have I sought godly counsel? - Prov. 11:14
- Would I do this in the presence of Jesus? - Mat 24:44

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True Joy, Happiness,
Peace, Eternal Life

Result

Extends To Everyday
Decision Making

Walk

Understanding
Biblical Principles

Growth

Choosing To
Follow God

**Initial
Choice**

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PROVERBS 1:22-33 (NKJV)

²² “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke,

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PROVERBS 1:22-33 (NKJV)

²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ “Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me.

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PROVERBS 1:22-33 (NKJV)

²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, ³⁰ They would have none of my counsel *And* despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”

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Application: *Making Wise Decisions*



- We each make multiple decisions everyday –
- Decisions today are often affected by decisions we have made in the past -
- There are consequences for every decision we make -
- We either decide to follow God – or we decide not to.

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- We have all made bad decisions — Rom. 3:23
- The good news is that there is forgiveness and the opportunity for a new start in Christ – 2 Cor. 5:17



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■ What About Eternity?

- Mat. 16:24-27; 1 Jn 2:17
- Mat. 11:28-30; Heb 12:1,2
- John 8:24; Acts 2:38;
- 2 Cor. 10:5; 2 Thes. 1:7-9



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Today is the day of salvation —
Joshua 24:15; 2 Cor. 6:2
Will YOU choose wisely?

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Preached January 21, 2018

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Ephesians 5:15–21

PROVERBS 4:20-27 (NKJV)

²⁰ My son, give attention to my words;
Incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹ Do
not let them depart from your eyes;
Keep them in the midst of your heart;
²² For they *are* life to those who find
them, And health to all their flesh. ²³
Keep your heart with all diligence, For
out of it *spring* the issues of life.

PROVERBS 4:20-27 (NKJV)

²⁴ Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you. ²⁵ Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. ²⁷ Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

WALKING IN WISDOM

On Saturday, January 13, 2018 at exactly 8:07 a.m., an emergency missile alert was issued in Hawaii. Soon after that alert was issued, the people of Hawaii were informed that the alert was a false alarm. One can only imagine the fear that this false alarm triggered in the people there. One moment, they were in fear for their lives, and in the next moment, they realized they were not in any imminent danger. One of the most intriguing facts that came from this false alarm was reported by the porn site, "PornHub." They released their internet traffic statistics from Hawaii which showed that when the missile alert was generated, their traffic dropped 77%, but as soon as it was announced that it was a false alarm, their internet traffic jumped 125%! Or to say it another way, when the people thought their lives were in danger, they turned from their sinful behavior, but as soon as they realized their lives were no longer in danger, they went right back to their sinful ways, and in a way that looked like they were trying to make up for lost time.

Such a phenomenon is not uncommon. It's not unusual for people to turn to God in times of trouble, and as soon as their trouble passes, they return to their sin. Just read the book of Judges. Read the prophets. Or, take an honest look at your own life. Haven't you done the same?

Friends, we need to turn from sin and turn our hearts toward God. But if we think that God doesn't know when we're trying to "play" him, use him, or manipulate him to our own ends, we're mistaken. God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7). He instructs us to rend our hearts, not our garments (Joel 2:12-13). He knows the difference. Repentance isn't a temporary change of behavior for one's own benefit, but rather, a genuine change of heart the intent of which is to glorify God.