

Decision-Making & the Will of God

KMI – 2011, by Howard Deunk

Intro: This workshop has 4 main parts: 1-Brief “Context”, 2-Most important part, our focus; 3-“how to’s”; 4-“what if’s”. And-there’s a LOT in this handout; you may want to take it w/ you for reference.

Context: Can I even _____ decisions, or is it all fate and/or fixed ahead of time? Deut 30:19; Josh 24:15; Rom 6:12,13; Rom 12:1.

Most important:

I. How do people make decisions?

A. Examples:

1. Breakfast? Is that bad? Matt 11:19; 16:9,10; Jn 2:1-11
2. Who has a job? Is that bad? Gen 2:15 (b-4 fall); 3:19 (after), II Thess 3:10 - no work, no eat -Why? (to earn money – is that bad?) Job 1:3, Gen 13:2
-Do you have power, or a position? Matt 8:8-10; I Cor 7:21; I Tim 3:1.
3. Who has a car? A house? Is that bad? Lu 10:38-Mary & Martha
4. Who’s John Crawford? Billy Graham? Is it bad to be well known?

Conclusion: Jas 1:17, I Tim 6:17b

B. But - Perspective and Priorities: Rhinoceros & bugs

-I Jn 2:15-17; I Tim 6:10; Matt 4:3-10; Lu 14:26; Matt 6:33; Matt 16:26.

II. Tie this is w/ God’s will (I Jn 2:17)

A. Does God have a will for us? Gen 1:27; Acts 17:26,7.

B. Yes, and it’s **good – Jer 29:11; Jn 10:10**

C. He wants us to know it (Eph 5:17). & follow it: Deut 30:11-14,19; Ezek 33:11, 18:23,32.

D. And He promises to guide and direct us: Ps 32:8; Ps 25:8,9;

III. Wouldn’t it be nice if God just said, “Hey, guys, here’s my will for you” Well, He does!

A. Salvation: Jn 3:17; I Tim 2:4; II Pet 3:9;

B. But beyond that, Gal 1:4; I Thess 4:3; 5:16-18; I Pet 4:2; I Pet 2:15;

NOTE: All **character** issues. Remember I Jn 2:17, & the rhino & the mosquito? **Priorities.** What is GOD interested in. & what does the world, what do we, tend to be interested in? **compare & contrast**
-Phil 3:18-20; Rom 12:2; **BEDLAM;** Rom 8:28,29; Jn 15:16, 8; Gal 5:22, 23:

MOST IMPORTANT!!! What’s my focus, priorities; what am I thinking & dreaming about? Prov 23:7 (KJ) What do I **base** my decisions on? .From DFD’s: Sow a thought, reap an action; sow an action, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character, sow a character, reap a destiny. Note: At **each** step – a **conscious choice** – cut it off, or wallow in it?

BUT: what we **really** want is guidance on other issues-jobs, marriage, location, etc. What about them?

Story-possibility of moving what did the mentor say? Matt 28:18-20. What was Abraham’s secular job? Noah’s wife’s name? **Secondary** issues . . . **MATT 6:33.** If you take **NOTHING** else away from this workshop, take this: God’s **primary** will for us is to walk w/ Him, love Him, serve Him (Matt 22:37-40), and in so doing allow Him to transform us into His likeness (II Cor 3:18), for two reasons:

- He loves us, and wants the very best for us, and we get that out of life by living life God’s way, as He directs and guides, and

- We’re Christians, called by God’s name (Jer 15:16), **reflecting on God** – we should be holy, because **He** is holy – I Pet 1:16, so others will see Him in us and glorify Him (Matt 5:16).

Newspaper article: What guides my life? **Ps 27:4; II Cor 5:15**

GOOD things, yes? BUT - The **worst** enemy of the **best**, is the **good**

“How to’s”: Much of this is from, and/or an expansion of things in DFD’s, but still a good review.

I. Prerequisites for obtaining God’s guidance into His will:

A. Know God personally (Be a Christian) Jn 6:39,40; Matt 7:21-23; ***‘I never knew you;*** Jn 17:3

B. Have faith/trust in God, not myself Prov 3:5; Heb 11:6; Jas 1:5-8; Ps:118:8,9; Ps 37:5.

C. Instead of fear Is 41:10; Phil 4:6,7

D. Humble yourself before God & Submit/surrender to Him (i.e., “fear” God) Matt 6:10; Matt 26:39, 42; Jas 4:6,7; Ps 37:11; I Pet 5:5,6; Ps 25:8,9,12,14; Matt 20:25-28; Heb 10:7 (Ps 40:7).

compare & contrast - Is 14:12-17 & Ezek 28:12-17 (Satan), vs. Phil 2:5-12 (Jesus)

E. Be willing to obey Jn 7:17; Rom 6:12,13; Ps 40:8; Acts 13:22.

F. How do we know if we’re willing to obey? Show it by

-**Confess/repent/forsake all known sin;** Prov 15:29; Is 55:6,7; 59:1,2; I Jn 1:9; Ps 24:3-5; Jas 4:8

-**Attempt to follow/obey God’s previously revealed will:** Ps 32:9; Jas 1:22; Jer 26:13; Matt 7:24-27; I Jn 3:16,18 (talk is cheap, \$ where mouth is –what did Jesus do?)

Example: Ezra 10:11

II. Principles of Biblical decision-making (i.e., I have a *specific* request/situation)

A. What has God already said about it in His word? **Do my homework!! No point in asking about a *specific* situation if He’s already answered in His *general* revelation to everyone.**

1. II Pet 1:3; Rom 15:4; II Tim 3:16,17; Eph 5:17.

2. General examples: Ex 20; Matt 5-7; **character issues;** Rom 12:19-21; Matt 6:14,15

3. Specific examples: Ex 14:15; 2 Cor 6:14 (business-Humphrey-tithe; marr); Mk 10: 2-12; Ruth Graham; Gen 1:28; Prov 18:22; I Cor 7:2; **APPLY** – How? In a bar? 1Cor 15:33; Tommy Nelson-Denton Bible-Matt 6:33 principle: run after God! Personal ex: Nav SDT (6 wk training pgm)

4. **Obey** what He says! Lu 6:46 – If not lord OF all, not Lord AT all!

5. **Several** different types of direction in the Scriptures:

a. commands (already talked about)

b. principles/proverbs (Prov 17:18; Prov 22:7)

c. examples, both good and bad (Adam & Eve, David & Goliath)

B. Ask! (pray) – Jas 4:2b

-Persevere - Matt 7:7,8, Heb 10:36

-in faith (Jas 1:5-8)

-w/ good motives Jas 4:3,4

C. Godly counsel (Prov 11:14; 15:22; 20:18; 24:6; Eccl 4:9-12)

D. Circumstances: A need ≠ a call; Jesus didn’t heal/feed/preach to everyone.

-Jerry White – pres of Nav’s. ret Maj Gen – speak at a conf - no \$ - cancel

-what are my specific gifts, talents, call

--Gifts: I Cor 12; Eph 4:11-14 – I Cor 12:11

--Talents Prov 22:6; 22:29; Bezalel – Ex 31:2-4;

--Heb 12:1 (the race set before us), BUT –

-balance; God’s “holy interruptions” – Prov 16:9; Gal 6:9,10; Lu 10:33; Prov 3:27,28)

E. God’s peace accompanies His answers (Phil 4:6,7)

F. Don’t presume or assume (Josh 9), but get *all* the facts (Hos 4:6a; Prov 27:23; 20:15; 18:17),

***** Remember Rhino & bugs – zoo – mosquito, w/ W Nile virus, Ebola, malaria, & dengue fever.

Corollary: Prov 1:7; Get wisdom - Prov 4:5; 4:13; 3:13-16; Wisdom ≠ knowledge, wisdom is the ability to **apply** knowledge correctly - II Tim 3:15, I Cor 1:24

G. Stay where I’m at until God directs elsewhere (I Cor 7:20,24)

H. Don’t stagnate; when you have direction, move in faith – II Cor 5:7: rudders direct moving ships (Jas 3:3-4); closed doors don’t open: Acts 16:6; God ***does*** use circumstances: Phil 1:12-14

I. Obey those over me (the law and my boss-Rom 13:1-7; I Tim 2:2; Eph 6:5-8) **w/a willing heart;** Col 3:23) **if possible** – Acts 4:19, 5:29, 40,41; if not, accept the consequences-I Pet 4:14,16

**** Lin & I met at an SDT (not the desired ones - our Nav mentors' counsel!!) ****

J. Consider the consequences of my proposed action(s) - (Gal 6:7)

K. Listen to what God has to say – Ps 81:8, 11-14; Deut 1:43; 11:13;

L. Desire to know God's will - Jn 7:17,

From DFD's:

-Call (Does God want me to do it, based on prayer, my calling/talents/abilities, AND the things below)

-Content (what's the Word say)

-Counsel

-Circumstances

-Contentment

III. Questions to ask

-Am I putting God's desires first, or mine? (Matt 6:33)

-Will this advance God's kingdom (or **my** agenda/comfort/pleasure)? (Phil 1:18)

-Will this glorify God (or me)? (I Cor 10:31)

-Will it reflect poorly on God or His people? (II Sam 12:14-David; Jer 15:16)

-Will this help me love God & others more? (Matt 22:36-40)

-Will this help me get to know Jesus better? (II Pet 3:18)

-Will this help me lead a more holy life? (I Thess 5:15-22)

-Is it a hindrance? (Heb 12:1-3)

-Will this be/make me a stumbling block for others? (I Cor 8:9)

-Am I respecting my body/mind/spirit/soul as God's property? (I Cor 6:19,20)

-Is this helpful or enslaving? (I Cor 6:12)

-Is it totally above board (ethical, legal, moral)? (Rom 12:17, I Cor 8:21, I Thess 5:22)

-Am I spending time W/God daily in the Word & prayer so that He can speak to me? Ps 34:4;

86:3; Acts 17:11

IV. Final analysis - Col 2:6 as ye have received Christ Jesus so walk in Him: How?

A. By faith - II Cor 5:7 - walk by faith not sight, Heb 11:1 – Faith-evidence-things **not seen**. Ps 119:105 –light/lamp/flashlight–J Vernon McGee–Henry Ironsides–90%

B. By/thru The Word Jas 1:21; Rom 10:17; 1Pet 1:23;

C. Not feeling – train: engine-fact; cars-faith; caboose-feeling!! (on a fence!)

“What if's”: What happens when we blow it?

A. Not if. **when** (Rom 3:23; Rom 7:19 - the good that I would)

B. Relationship w/God Jn 10:27-30

C. Fellowship w/God Is 59:2, I Jn 1:9

D. Consequences Gal 6:7,8

E. God is still sovereign, & can & does turn evil into good (Gen 50:20)

EX# 1 - II Sam 11,12: David own sin – he killed Uriah the Hittite (one of his 30 mighty men/bodyguard) & committed adultery w/ his wife, Bathsheba.

-Relationship w/ God was never severed, but

-Fellowship was, until he repented (II Sam 12:13, Ps 51) ** character issues **

-Consequences – II Sam 12:10 (sword won't depart), 11 (own house against you in public), ** 14 – gave occasion to God's enemies to blaspheme, child died ***

-God turned it into good – Solomon fm Bathsheba – greatest king, wisest man - I Ki 4:29-31

EX# 2 – Gen 37-50: **Joseph** didn't necessarily sinned, **others'** sinned & it affected him
-Willful sin: Ex 37:27,28 – sold Joseph into slavery: - new country, culture, lang
-Initial Consequences: Ex 39:1 – slave in a new country. culture, language
-Relationship & fellowship w/ God never severed: Ex 39:2 – God was w/ him
-Later Consequences: Ex 44:33 – Judah (perpetrator)–repents/offers self as slave
-God turned it into good – Ex 45:5,7,8

EX# 3 – I Cor 5:1-7: Sin **without** repentance.
-Willful, sexual sin, of a grievous sort: I Cor 5:1 – a man had his father's wife
-Initial Consequences: I Cor 5:5 - Paul's command: hand such a man over to Satan, so that
-Later, final Consequences/God's good: I Cor 5:5 – he might repent & be saved

EX #4 – I Tim 1:12-14: **Ignorant** sin; Paul **prior to** his conversion.
-Willful sin of a grievous sort (persecuted the church): I Cor 15:9
-Initial Consequences: Acts 8:3 – church ravished
-Later Consequences: Acts 9:3-9 – Paul converted,
-Later, final Consequences/God's good:
-Acts 8:4 – church dispersed (Acts 1:8)
-I Cor 15:9,10 – Paul “best apostle”