



Aligned Life

COACHING-TRAINING-CONSULTING

FIVE SECRETS TO MAKING GREAT DECISIONS

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DISCOVER THE POWER OF AN ALIGNED LIFE

Every decision we make is made within a worldview framework. Most of the time this is totally unrecognized due to the fact of living in it for so long. The framework of this decision guide is the Christian biblical worldview. As with any worldview, there are certain assumptions. One major assumption that travels through all of the "secrets" is the belief in a personal all powerful, all knowing and all loving God who made and is in control of all creation and who is bringing all things to a successful resolution.

1. GREAT DECISIONS SEEK GOD'S WILL AND ARE MADE IN AN ALREADY ONGOING CONVERSATIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

You don't want to be that person who calls on God only when there's a problem. You wouldn't want a friend who only calls on you when they need something fixed. Take the time to know God as he is revealed in the Scriptures and especially in his final revelation of God the Son, Jesus Christ. In the Gospel of John 15:4-11, Jesus states how important it is to remain with him; he in you and you in him. He uses the word "abide" or "remain" 10 times in those few verses.

WISDOM FROM PROVERBS

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. (Proverbs 12:15, ESV)

Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26, ESV)

2. YOU MUST COME TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU REALLY BELIEVE GOD IS AS SCRIPTURE REVEALS HIM TO BE OR YOU WILL DEFAULT TO YOUR OWN WISDOM AND WAYS.

Like it or not, your personal view of God will affect the level of trust you will give to Scripture and to faith in God's will and ways. If you are uncertain about God, then when times are hard, you will default to your own thoughts and your own solutions. After all, the place we find ourselves that we want not to be, is due to our own limited wisdom and attempts at control things we cannot control anyway.

3. SEEK TO SET YOUR HEART IN SUBMISSION TO GOD'S WILL FIRST.

This preconditional stance is the most difficult but also the most important. What I'm saying is that you must come to a decision to do whatever God would want you to do before you know what God may want you to do. In other words, it is a "Yes" to God before God asks the question. Jesus said as much, *"If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from god or whether I am speaking on my own authority."* (John 7:17, ESV)

What Jesus is saying is that before you can know God's will you have to be committed to doing God's will. Think about it. This is necessary because you are wanting to know from the person who created you and everything else, who has all power, wisdom and love what He wants you to do. Then you are going to decide if that is a good thing or not? It makes you the judge over God's wisdom and ways.

4. TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT YOUR OWN PERSONAL CONTEXT.

None of the decisions we make are without influences. I've listed five very important influences in the box to the right. These and perhaps others you may think of need to be kept in mind as you ponder your decisions.

It is important that you take the time to explore your personal context. What is good for someone else may not be good for you and those around you because of context. If facing an important decision I recommend engaging a certified coach to help you process through these and other factors. A coach will be your resource who can ask the right questions but also be an advocate for you and your goals. Even if you are still struggling with what those goals are.

- Your Conscience
- Your Circumstances
- Your Gifts, Abilities and Limitations
- Your Responsibility
- Your Desires

- Pray about the decision
- Should be consistent with the Scriptures
- You would be a positive influence for Christ
- Decision is made with sound reasoning
- It is a realistic opportunity
- Wise counsel was consulted
- A proper motivation is behind this decision
- An inner peace is sought in this decision

5. APPLY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING GREAT DECISIONS.

The box to the left has eight reasonable and I add, biblical principles to factor in your decision making. At first blush, this may seem overwhelming. It certainly can be.

We make hundreds of decisions a day. You made a decision to read this guide. You may not have thought much about how you arrived at that decision, but you did. Some decisions are routine. Some decisions are life-changing. When you are faced with an important decision it is wise to slow down, think and pray through it using your mind, spirit and body. What is the thing that is continually on your heart and mind? That is the thing you need to deal with.



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MULTITUDE OF DECISIONS THEY
FACE ACHIEVE CLARITY THROUGH
THE POWER OF AN ALIGNED LIFE.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND TODAY?



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years in State and National
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