

2024 09 15 / James 1:5-8, 25  
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## **Faith at the moment of important decisions**

With this theme, I remembered the poem, “The Road not taken” by Robert Frost.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

What emotion does this poem evoke in you? What memory does it bring to mind? Life is full of moments where we must make choices, sometimes between two options and other times between many. The decisions we make begin to define who we are. Have you ever chosen the wrong path? I have. It led me on a long, arduous journey back to the place God had intended for me. It took decades to find my way back, with much time lost. I wish I had possessed a stronger faith and maturity in God during that time.

Facing a choice at a crossroads, we hesitate and linger for a long time. You are faced with a challenging decision to make. A tough decision means that none of the options are clearly better than the other. They are equally good or equally bad. And you struggle to choose which way to go. Should you go this way or that way? After much contemplation, you make a tough decision. But as soon as you make the choice, doubts start creeping in. You begin to question yourself, wondering if you made the right decision. This uncertainty can be tormenting and cause inner turmoil. Being double-minded, as described in Greek and in the Bible, literally means having

two souls. You feel torn in different directions, wavering back and forth. Have you ever experienced this feeling?

Today, we are going to discuss decisions. Life is a series of choices and decisions. Every day, you need to analyze, evaluate, and draw conclusions. How does trusting God make difficult choices easier? James 1:5-8 provides insight on this.

1

When you are faced with a difficult decision where there is no clear advantage to one option over the other, James 1:5 advises to seek wisdom through prayer. The verse states, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should pray to God, who generously gives to all without finding fault." He is very kind, and never resents you're asking. God loves to help you. And he'll give you the wisdom you need. Just ask. This is the first thing to do. Ask and ask and ask until you have the answer in great peace of heart. The book of Proverbs lists 30 practical benefits of wisdom.

But let me just give you a couple of quotes. **Proverbs 3:18, says this: "Those who become wise will be happy. Wisdom is the key to a blessed life."** Do you want your life to be blessed? God's wisdom is the opposite of the world's wisdom. He says wisdom is the key to happiness and being blessed. **Proverbs 4:7 says this: "Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can get in life."** It's more important than money, fame and success. In fact, wisdom brings all those other things into your life. He says if you're going to focus on getting one thing, get wisdom.

When I was young, I wanted to be wise. I did not know the Bible well enough. I wondered, where can I find wisdom? Can I attain wisdom by studying and reading many books? Just as we find gold by digging in a hidden gold mine and following the golden nuggets, can we do the same to find wisdom? No. Job states, "Mortals do not know the way to wisdom, it is not found in the land of the living." This means that all humans do not possess wisdom. Even King Solomon, known as the wisest king, did not possess wisdom from the start. After building God's temple and making many sacrifices, God asked him what he desired. Solomon asked for wisdom, and God granted it to him, along with wealth and power. Proverbs advise us to seek wisdom, for those who search for it will find it. Wisdom is often personified in the Bible as a woman, a lover, or a protector. Wisdom has a life of its own and can choose whose heart to enter. It is said that wisdom will not dwell in a soul that is proud, arrogant, selfish, or full of complaints.

Wisdom chooses where to enter and where to work. Proverbs says that God created wisdom at the beginning of the world. When God created the world, wisdom worked with God. Wisdom created the whole macro universe such as black holes, galaxies and the place where stars are born, and dying. Also, wisdom created the micro-universes such as our body cells, the atoms, and molecules in intricate beauty. Wisdom is all the source of the world. By now you can figure out who wisdom is. Bible says wisdom is Jesus.

1

I want to summarize three ways to attain wisdom through scripture. The first way is by putting God first in your life, which will lead to wisdom. Making God the top priority in your thoughts, life, schedule, money, and relationships is key. **Proverbs 15:33 states that “Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.”** When you honor God and remain humble, you will gain wisdom. Living by the word of God is essential in acquiring wisdom. Jesus is present when you not only put God first but also practice His teachings in your daily life. Obtaining God's wisdom comes from applying the word and following God's instructions. **In John 13:17, Jesus said this: “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”** It requires time and effort to put God's word into practice. Monitoring our words, emotions, and thoughts by slowing down in life and aligning them with God's word is crucial.

2

Not only do I want to have God's word in my life, but I also want to have people in my life who have wisdom deeply in their hearts. The people you are currently spending the most time with is either helping you or harming you. They are either building you up or tearing you down. They are either making you more cowardly or more courageous. They are either causing you worry or causing you to worship. The quality of your life, your decisions, and your choices will be determined by who you spend the most time with, so you need to choose your friends wisely. Proverbs 13:20 says, "Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm." Spend time with godly people, set up regular calls, seek a spiritual mentor. In the journey of life, it is important to have wise companions. Above all else, spend time with the community of God, trinity God!

3

When you trust God, He speaks behind you “Go to the right, go to the left.” As Isaiah said. He also works on your behalf, taking action and moving mountains to help you. God can create a path for you even when it seems impossible, using your mistakes to bring something good out of them. His love is like a safety net, providing comfort and peace. I no longer fear making mistakes because I know that God can turn them into something beautiful. God says this in Romans 8:28. *"We know that God causes everything,"* that's even my mistakes, *"we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those of us who love him and are called to live His purpose for us."* Whenever I mess up, I pray for God to redeem it and turn it into something better. I trust that the truth will reveal itself in my life at the right time, and I am filled with gratitude when it happens.

If you love God and truly desire His purpose for your life, you cannot miss God's will for you. God's will is always good! You can rest assured. This is an amazing thing to keep in mind whenever you are faced with a difficult decision.