

Directions

Part 4 – Framing a Decision

God's Word clearly reveals God's will.

- If we obey what God's Word clearly says is His will, we can rest assured He will give us specific direction when we need it.
- Making a decision is less like a formula and more like a canvas.
- This is not fool-proof, but is the way of wisdom.

Word (Psalm 119.105)

- Guides us via transformation as we discipline ourselves to hear, read and study.
- Guides us via principles we find in it as we seek.
- Guides us via discernment of our motives in a decision.
- Guides us via specific applications of truths we see there.

Prayer (Jeremiah 33.3)

- Guides us via our conversation with God – not monologue.
- When we think we hear God in prayer, we should “measure the quality, spirit and content” of the voice (Dallas Willard).
- Quality: what is its level of authority?
- Spirit: is it honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent? (Phil. 4.8)
- Content: does it reflect principles of the Bible?

Counsel (Proverbs 27.9)

- Guides us via external input into our thought process.
- Community: friends who love you.
- Authority: leaders who are responsible for you.
- History: family who have lived with you.

Calling (Romans 15.20-21)

- Guides us via our unique, individual purpose in God's Kingdom.
- Our calling helps determine our context.
- This is not our responsibilities before God, a wish list, or a job offer – it is the One Thing.
- We may have to step back to see it – and we may need other's help.
- Components of Calling:
 - Passions – what burns in your heart?
 - Experiences – what have you seen, done, or endured?
 - Gifts – how has God empowered you?
 - Strengths – how has God made you?
 - Abilities AND Situation(s) – life-stage can be a strength

When we frame our decision with wisdom, we have freedom to pursue our desires (Psalm 37.4)

- We don't have to be paralyzed by fear or lack of details (Isaiah 30.21).

Our Responsibilities

- Be still enough to hear God speak – this is the glue that holds the frame together.
- Walk with God *through* the decision like you walked with Him *to* it.

Questions for Discussion:

1. Describe a time in your life when you had a difficult decision to make. How did you make it? What was the outcome? Looking back, would you make the same decision again?
2. Throughout the series, we have emphasized the importance of the Bible in understanding and knowing God's will. In the sermon, we talked about four ways the Bible guides us specifically. Which of those do you see most clearly in your life? Which do you struggle with the most?
3. How has praying about an issue led you to make a decision on it? What examples from your life can you think of that might encourage someone in your group?
4. Who is the wisest person you talk to when making decisions? What is the best advice you have ever received when trying to make a decision?
5. In trying to describe calling, we talked about it being your One Thing. If you had to describe your right now, how would you describe it? What role do the passions, experiences, gifts, and strengths play in your sense of calling? How has it expressed itself?