



THE LIBERATED CHRISTIAN

PART 4: LIBERATED FROM INDECISION

I. A COMMON CRISIS: INDECISION

“A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.” James 1:8

Indecision contributes to...

- Unstable _____
- Unstable _____
- Unstable _____

II. GOD'S SOLUTION: GUIDELINES FOR DECISION MAKING

How can I make good decisions?

1. Decide _____

“The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness. . .” Ps. 23:1-3

Why do I get uptight about decision making?

- I think God's will _____
- I think God's will _____

“Every one must make up his own mind as to how much to give.” 2 Cor. 9:7

“If some unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience.” 1 Cor. 10:27

“If anyone thinks he is acting improperly toward the virgin he is engaged to . . . and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants.” 1 Cor. 7:36

2. Decide _____

“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

Ask not “What is God's will for me”; ask “What is _____?”

3. Decide _____

“I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. . . Direct my footsteps according to your word. . .” Ps. 119:59, 133

4. Decide _____

- Get _____

“Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get.” Prov 23:23 (Living Bible)

- Get _____

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.” Prov. 19:20

- Get _____

“Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” Ps. 37:4

5. _____ !

“We should make our plans, counting on God to direct us.” Prov 16:9 (LB)

“We can make our plans, but the final outcome is in God's hands.” Prov. 16:1

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Prov. 3:5,6

RESOURCES

Ron Boehm, *If God Has a Plan For My Life, Why Can't I Find It?*

Garry Friesen, *Decision Making and the Will of God*

Bruce Walthe, *Finding the Will of God*

Rick Warren, *Knowing God's Will (tape series)*

DAILY MEDITATIONS

Brief daily Bible studies based on this week's message

This week's memory verse: *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."* James 1:5

Monday

Review the notes from last weekend. What point or points meant a lot to you?

Read Psalm 139:10. Many times God guides us in dark times in ways we only perceive when we look back years later. There are times when, even during our rebellion, He opens and closes doors in order to guide us back to paths of righteousness. Looking back, how have you seen God guide you in dark times of your life?

Thank God in specific ways for His guidance of you in times past.

Tuesday

Read James 1:5-8. Do you ask for guidance specifically, with eager expectation that God will provide guidance? If not, why not?

How will you know if the guidance you sense you are receiving from God is truly from Him? Great question! This checklist may help:

Four ways to test guidance

1. Does it agree with the Bible?

2. Does it make me more like Christ?

The wisdom that comes from God is pure, peace loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy. James 3:17

3. Does my church family confirm it?

4. Does it concern my responsibility?

We will all be judged one day, not by each other's standards, or even our own, but by the judgment of God. It is to God alone that we will have to answer for our actions. Rom. 14:4

Today, bring God specific issues that you need guidance on-- and ask expectantly!

Wednesday

Read the 23rd Psalm. According to this Psalm, why should you be relaxed?

How can this help you when you are stressed out over decision-making?

What decisions are you anxious about as you face the week, the month, the year?

How can the truths in this Psalm help you?

Thank God that He is our good shepherd. Let him lead you beside "still waters" and quiet your soul today!

Thursday

Read Psalm 119:105. According to this verse, what is a great way to understand the will of God? What are some unbiblical ways people try to discern the will of God?

Have you ever fallen into any of these traps? What happened?

Do you ever struggle with the idea that God's will is a "dot"-- that all the other options must be "Plan B"? What are some of the drawbacks to this approach?

How would you support from Scripture the idea that God's will involves our free choice within the framework of his moral standards and revealed will? (See the sermon notes)

Read Matthew 7:7-11. What does Jesus say in these verses that relates to finding the will of God?

Does this alter any misconceptions you may have had?

Thank the Lord today that He cares enough for you to reveal His specific will about important matters in the Bible and is willing to lavish everything we need upon us if we just seek! Tell God that you are yielded to His will in your life!

Friday

Read Psalm 1. What kind of counsel does the first verse of this Psalm warn against?

Do you ever listen to "ungodly counsel" from people you hear on the radio or in magazines or in your office or family?

According to this Psalm, what are the benefits of being rooted in God and His Word?

Read Eph. 5:17,18; 1 Thess. 4:3-6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; and Matt. 28:18. You may be wondering about God's will for your life; here are some passages that lay out God's will for you in black and white. What do they say?

Ask God for strength from the Holy Spirit to live out these commands in your life!

Saturday

Today polish up that memory verse. Please pray for services this weekend, that God's presence would be sensed in a powerful way.