

How Can I Make the Right Decision?

(By Pastor Kelly Sensenig)

One day a farmer hired a man. He asked him to paint the barn. He estimated it would take three days – the man did it in one day. Then he asked him to cut up a pile of wood. He estimated that would take four days – the man did it in one day. Then he asked the man to sort a pile of potatoes. He wanted them divided into three groups: one pile that he could use for seed potatoes; one pile that he could sell; one pile to use to feed the hogs. He estimated that he would do that in one day. At the end of the day he went to see the man to see how he had done and found three little groups. He hadn't even started on the pile. He asked what was wrong and the man said, "I can work, but I can't make decisions."

Can you make good decisions? Have you ever made a wrong decision? How can you know what decision is actually right in a given situation? How do you know whether or not God is pleased with the decision that you have made? Do you really consider whether or not your decision is honoring to the Lord? Decision-making is important. We need to learn to make decisions in the will of God. In this paper I would like to give you some Biblical guidelines to help you make the proper decisions in life.

Many times we go ahead and make plans and want to do our own thing in life without really considering what God's decision might be in a certain situation that we are facing. Instead of allowing God and His Word to influence and shape our decisions, we make our decisions in life without God's approval. This is when we get ourselves and even our families into trouble. And we wonder why things turn out the way that they do and why we drift away from God's will for our lives and move away from God's real blessings. We wonder why we sometimes feel so far away from God. Why do we dig ourselves into a hole? The answer many times lies in the fact that we make bad decisions in life and send our lives and even the lives of our children in a wrong direction. So how can I know if I am making the right decision?

There are several Biblical guidelines that we can follow when making the decisions of life.

1. We must consider the will of God in our decision-making.

This of course is the foundation to any decision that we make. Is it God's will for my life? The rest of the Biblical guidelines in this paper will help us to discover what God's will might be in any given decision that we must make. However, there is a general way to discover what God's will is for our lives so that we can base our decisions upon His will and program for our lives instead of our own will. Many times we make wrong decisions that bypass God's will. Therefore, we must ask ourselves this question. What is the general or primary way that we can discover God's will for our lives and make decisions based upon His will?

Romans 12:1-2 says:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

The general or primary way to discover what God's will might be concerning the decisions that we must make in life is seen in these verses. First, we must sacrifice our lives to God. This is called a "living sacrifice." The Old Testament sacrifices were offered upon the altar and died there upon the altar. In a similar fashion, New Testament believers must be willing to place themselves upon the altar of sacrifice. However, unlike the Old Testament sacrifice, the New Testament believer does not die. He is to be a living sacrifice unto God. He must learn to sacrifice his life while remaining alive. The point is this. ***We must be willing to surrender and sacrifice our lives for God and not make decisions that will take us away from sacrifice and surrender to God.*** We must be sold out for God when we make the decisions of life so that we do not bypass God's plan for our lives. A life of surrender and sacrifice must be within our hearts and lives at all times. Knowing the will of God requires total

self-abandonment. It involves complete sacrifice and not allowing the world to squeeze you into its mold or way of thinking.

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Am I making this present decision in life as a living sacrifice to God? Am I totally surrendered to God?
- Can I honestly say that I am willing to sacrifice my life for God and His will no matter what it might be?

We must also remember that God's will involves separation from the world system. When making the right decision I must consider the importance of nonconformity to the world system. This means that we must learn to live separate from the evil system that is against God in order to understand what God's will is for our lives in any given situation and decision that we face.

Romans 12:2 says:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

The word “conformed” has the idea of being molded into the world system. It infers that you can make your decisions based upon the ideas, philosophies and way of thinking that the world possesses. When we do this, we become molded to the system that is against God. ***The system is trying to squeeze us into its own mold. Many times we allow our lives to be pressured because we keep trying to be like the unsaved and follow the normal thinking that governs society.*** The believer must not allow the world system to squeeze him into its mold! Remaining separated in your life from the world's system of thinking and decisions is important. *Beware! The world's way of thinking can shape our decision-making and lead us in a direction that God does not want us to go. The world system of greed, pride, values and lust can very easily influence our decision-making and lead us away from God's will for our lives.* The “world” is a wicked system that is headed up by its maker and prince - the devil (John 12:31; 14). It is a system of thoughts, works, places, priorities,

philosophies and influences that are contrary to God and His will for our lives.

1 John 2:15-17 says this about the world:

“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

The system of the world tries to shape all the decisions that we make in life. We can make decisions based upon the world’s philosophies for success and the world’s way of thinking instead of living a separated life and basing our decisions upon God’s will for our lives.

According to 1 John 2:15-17, the world can take us away from the love which we should have for the Father (1 John 2:15) and also take us away from the will of God for our lives (1 John 2:17). The world is set in contrast to the will of God. *The world is an organized system, made up of a set of ideas, people, activities, purposes and even decisions that are opposed to God and take us away from God’s will for our lives.* Many times the worldly influence of money, power, pride, lust, covetousness, position, sports and success shape our decisions instead of the will of God. *If we fail to separate ourselves from the influences of the world (“be not conformed to the world” – Romans 12:2), we will find ourselves making decisions based upon worldly philosophies or based upon the way that the world thinks.* This can happen very easily. In a subtle way, the world tries to reshape our thinking and keep our minds from making the right choices that will keep us loving the Father and doing the will of God.

Definition of worldliness: Worldliness is anything that keeps us from loving God as we ought to love him. It is anything that keeps us from doing the will of God as we ought to do it.

Have you taken the worldly test recently? I think we all need to test ourselves lest we find ourselves slipping into the worldly mold.

- Is my decision stealing away my love for the Father? If I am so involved with other things that my love for the Father decreases, then I become worldly in living. If my decision is going to steal away my love for the Father in some measure or degree, then I am making a worldly decision and the wrong decision for my personal life.
- Is there any worldly thing in my life that is keeping me from discerning or knowing what God's will really is for my life? We must be open and honest when answering this question.

You see, doing the will of God for your life is the demonstration that you love the Father and that you are not stooped in worldliness in your day-to-day living and thinking (see vs. 17). The world is in direct contrast to the will of God. Therefore, when you make your decisions based upon worldly thinking, you become worldly in your life. Furthermore, your decision-making process becomes cloudy and blurred. *When the pace, pressures, pleasures, practices, pursuits, places, programs, people and pomp of the world grabs your mind, you will not be in the right place to make decisions based upon the will of God.* You must learn to live separate from the world system so that you will be able to "prove" (discern or know) what God's good and perfect and acceptable will is for your own life.

Romans 12:2 once again says:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

John reminds us that we cannot know or discern what God's will is for our lives when our thinking is molded to the pattern and program of this world. We must seek to live separate and different from the worldly system by "renewing" or renovating our minds or thinking processes. ***Since the world tries to influence our minds and all of our decisions in life, we must constantly be seeking to renovate or clean out the worldly ideas that try to influence these decisions.*** This calls for a return to the Word of God and an opening of our minds to what God's Word says about any given decision. *We must renovate our thinking by returning to the principles of God's*

Word and base our decisions on what the Bible says instead of what the world system is saying or feeding to our minds. Only as we renovate our minds from worldly thinking (“renewing of your mind”) can we live separate from the world (“be not conformed to the world”) and know what God’s will really is for our lives in any given situation we face (“that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”).

Here is another worldly test:

- What is your emotional reaction when you have lost something of the world’s goods? Are you disappointed, depressed, discouraged and defeated? If you are, it’s because these things have your heart. What happens when you lose some money in the stock market?
- How do you make your choices in life? Do you find yourself making choices that are wrong and which take you away from doing God’s will for your life?

You cannot make right decisions in life if your life is molded to this world system. If your thinking is blurred or influenced by the system, then you decisions will not be based upon God’s will.

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has my life subtly been overtaken by the world’s philosophies and way of thinking?• Has my life been influenced by the lusts, pride and pressures of the world system?• Have I been renovating my mind from all worldly influence? |
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In order to know the will of God we must be separated in our thinking from the world’s ideas of success and the world’s priority system. But we must also be ready and willing to do the will of God no matter what it may be.

Jesus said in John 7:17:

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or *whether* I speak of myself.”

Jesus did not say that after we know what His teaching is for our lives that we can then decide to do it. Actually just the opposite is true. ***We must be willing to do God’s will no matter what it is, then Jesus says we will be sure to know what it is!*** If you will do it, then you will know it! How many times do we want to know the will of God for our lives in order that we can inspect it and then make a decision based upon our likes or dislikes? If this is our mindset about God’s will, then we will never know what decision God wants us to make in life.

“My plans should not oppose His perfect will,
I am my Lord’s and He is mine;
Whatever He wants for me,
His will, His will I must do,
His will, His will I must do.”

2. We must consider the Word of God in our decision-making.

Does God’s Word condemn the decision that I am about to make? Are there any principles in the Word of God that we must consider before making this decision? Does the Bible throw any light on the matter that you are contemplating? Is what you are considering in harmony with the Bible? Is there some Scriptural statement or principle that we must consider before making this decision? *Remember that God will not bless our efforts when we are in violation of His Word.* Here are a few principles that the Bible would have us consider when making the decisions of life.

- Will my decision violate the plain teaching of the Bible?
(Leviticus 18:17; Proverbs 6:16-19, 23:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Exodus 20:1-16)
- Will my decision cause me to feed my fleshly desires?
(Titus 2:12; 1 John 2:16; Galatians 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1)

- Will my decision violate the Biblical doctrine of separation from the world's people and practices? (Psalm 119:63; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17)
- Will my decision promote excesses in my life? (1 Peter 3:3-4; 1 Peter 4:3-4; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:23 – “temperance”)
- Will my decision cause a mixture between the holy and the unholy? (Leviticus 10:10; Ezekiel 22:26; 44:23)
- Will my decision cause me to feel uneasy and create doubts in my mind about my resulting actions? (Romans 14:21-23)
- Will my decision edify my brother? (Romans 14:19, 21, 15:2)
- Will my decision cause my brother to stumble? (Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9)
- Will my decision lead me into sin? (Romans 13:14)
- Will my decision glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)
- Will my decision be something that I can give God thanks for? (1 Timothy 4:1-5)
- Will my decision take on the appearance ("form") of evil? (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- Will my decision become a weight in my life? (Hebrews 12:1)
- Will my decision defile my body? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Will my decision enslave me? (1 Corinthians 6:12)

- Will my decision affect my thought life?
(Philippians 4:8)
- Will my decision hurt my testimony?
(Ephesians 5:8; 1 Timothy 4:12; Matthew 5:14-16)
- Will my decision involve the wrong type of company?
(I Corinthians 15:32-33)
- Will my decision cause my witnessing to be out of place?
(I Peter 3:15)
- Will my decision be something, which Jesus would do?
(John 8:29)
- Will my decision be suitable for my Christian life?
(I Corinthians 6:12, 10:23)
- Will my decision be modest and distinguish the sexes?
(I Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3; 1 Corinthians 11:14-15;
Deuteronomy 22: 5).
- Will my decision bring shame to me at Christ's return?
(I John 2:28)
- Will my decision draw me closer to the Lord or further away from Him? (James 4:8)

These are some basic principles of Scripture that we should use to help us make the decisions of life. Without considering these Biblical guidelines, we will find ourselves making hasty and wrong decisions in life. The Bible has many direct and indirect principles to draw upon in order to reveal God's will to our lives in a given decision. We must look into the Word to discover God's will.

Psalm 40:8 says:

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart."

We see that the Psalmist tied together the will of God with the law or the instruction of the Word of God. As the law or Scripture was written within his heart, only then could he know the will of God and make proper decisions in life based upon His will.

Psalm 119:130 says:

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

God’s word in a person’s heart illuminates his life and helps him to make right decisions based on the Bible. There can never be divine guidance contrary to the Word. God’s Word will always give me the much-needed light so that I can make the right decisions in life.

Psalm 119:105

“Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Many years ago I was traveling with a music group in the state of Maine. The home I was staying at was in the midst of a wooded area. One evening I decided to take a jog. It was summer time and the sun was still in the sky when I left. But before I knew what happened, the sun was setting and it was getting dark. And did it ever get dark! I was concerned that I could not locate the home in the blackness of that vast wooded area. But there it was. The family had a pole with a light that could be seen from a distance. That light guided me back to their home. It was a comforting light in the midst of the darkness of the night. So it is with the light of God’s Word. It becomes a light to guide us in the direction that God wants us to take. The Word of God will help us to make the right decisions in life so that we move in the path of His direction.

3. We must consider the reward of God in our decision-making.

If our decision takes us farther away from the work of God and our business for the King, then we will not gain eternal reward which we otherwise could have earned. Jesus reminds us that we should be seeking out those things that will have eternal value instead of temporary value. Where is your heart today? This question should

stop us in our tracks and cause us to evaluate our lives. Where is our heart? Jesus said that we will store up reward in the place where our heart's devotion is placed.

Matthew 6:19-21:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth (**the world of today**), where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (**the world of tomorrow**), where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Jesus clearly recognized that your heart's devotion may only be geared toward the temporal or those things that captivate us in this life. Your heart may only love those things of the world system instead of the Lord. When our hearts are geared only upon the earthly, then we cannot have them centered on the heavenly! In fact, our decisions can become corrupted. *This means that we need to concentrate on living our lives in such a way that we will gain heavenly or eternal reward.* When we are caught up with the world system (its success, plans, programs, purposes, pride, lusts, pleasures, dominating principles and motives) and do not invest quality time in eternity, then we will lack reward in the future. Therefore, as we make decisions in life, we must ask ourselves this question: “Will this decision take away from my eternal reward or treasures?” We must be reminded of the old saying:

“It's good to have things that money can buy, provided we don't lose the things that money cannot buy (eternal reward).”

We can either live for the economy or for eternity! You cannot have both. This is exactly what Jesus was saying. ***In fact, Jesus is saying that we can only live for one world at a time! We can have our lives motivated by the world today or the world tomorrow.*** If we focus most of our attention on the present economy and the world today, it will rob us of a fruitful harvest of spiritual things in the world of tomorrow. Our lives become much simpler if we will learn the lesson to live one world at a time. ***When you live for one world at a time, and that world is the future world of reward and***

blessing, it not only will prioritize your life but also simplify your life. When people say that they are planning ahead they really mean that they are planning ahead for their future on earth. Many times we live with this mentality and fail to really plan ahead for eternity and eternal dividends. We must think of this before we make a decision to give up our service and work for the Lord.

If we are not careful, our decisions can become very temporal! We can make decisions based on the present instead of the future. We are all guilty of this at times in our lives. We must constantly be aware about the future aspect of our decision that we must make. Will my decision keep me from receiving a full reward in the future.

2 John 8

“Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.”

The Bible teaches that we can lose a full reward in the future by failing to do what we should have done. In other words, we can lose reward which otherwise we could have had if we kept the plow to the field and kept working for the Lord in some measure or capacity. In fact, Jesus says that we very easily can become mastered by the earthly goals and earthly rewards instead of the heavenly goals. This is because we are not allowing the Father to master our lives.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:24

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

Many times we pass over this verse without really considering what Jesus is actually saying. Just think about it for a few moments. The world system and God cannot rule your life at the same time. There can only be one master in our lives at any given time. But many times we try to have two masters and we try to live our lives to please both of them. Jesus says that it's impossible to live like this. You cannot love the world and the Father at the same time and you cannot have

Him as your master and the world at the same time. ***I believe that many times we become worldly in our lives and do not even realize it unless we sit back and evaluate our lives and see where our loyalties and loves really are.*** Many times we can look at our church attendance and our interest in spiritual things and compare them to our work schedules and other commitments in life and see just how worldly we are.

1 John 2:17 also reminds us:

“And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

The world system that is against God is in the process of being destroyed already. It is a doomed and dying rebel order. But what does this mean? It means that the world system is passing out of existence even as we speak because the world has no lasting value attached to it and no future reward surrounding it. Therefore, its pride, purposes, pursuits, places, pomp materialism and glory are seen to be passing away even as we speak. There is absolutely no lasting value in the storehouse and bank of the world system because everything that we invest in this world will not matter for eternity. The world system is passing away because there is no future reward attached to it. *The time, labor, hours and decisions that we have made for the world will not amount to a hill of beans in the future.* Therefore, the world is passing away in the sense that there is no future reward attached to its plans, goals, purposes, ambitions, lusts and pride. Everything that goes against the will of God in this life will not last in the next life. It's already passing out of existence and meeting its doom because there is absolutely no reward attached to it.

When a bank is going out of business, smart people do not deposit in it. Likewise, if the system of the world is going out of business, then we should learn to not deposit our time and labor into this system. When the foundation of a building is crumbling, intelligent builders do not proceed. Where are you building these days? If you are building on the foundation of the world system, I must remind you that you are building on shaky ground.

Someone has said:

“Concentrating on this world system is like rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

If we long and love for that which has no eternal dividends attached to it, we are in one sense rearranging the chairs on a ship that is sinking! So wise people do not live for a world that is passing away.” The will of God should be our goal in every decision that we make. This is the only thing that will last for eternity! Only as we do the will of God, which means to live with eternity’s values in view can we ever expect to receive eternal reward by and by.

“With eternity’s values in view, Lord,
With eternities values in view,
May I do each day’s work for Jesus
With eternity’s values in view.”

The will of God is not passing away. The will of God means that we will live for the Lord and remain faithful to Him and follow His world and serve Him with our lives. It’s these things (in contrast to the worldly things) that will last forever! They will last forever because we will receive eternal reward for them.

When we live according to the will of God and make decisions in accordance with the will of God, then the Bible says that we will abide forever (1 John 2:17). This simply means that the believer who practices doing the will of God will live on forever with great eternal reward and blessing. The emphasis is not on eternal salvation but on eternal reward. There are times in Scripture when eternal life is viewed as a future inheritance of blessing and reward (Galatians, 6:8; Rom. 6:22).

Jesus said in Matthew 19:29:

“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

Jesus is not talking about earning eternal life, but inheriting the future reward and privileges connected with eternal life because of our faithful living on earth. This eschatological aspect of eternal life deals with the blessings that will come upon our lives in the future when we will be rewarded for our love and commitment to Christ down here upon the earth.

I think some Christians are so caught up in their own little world that they forget about the world to come! If you do the will of God in this life, then you will abide forever with a great inheritance of reward and blessing in the next life and in the future. What you do for the Lord today will last for eternity.

Are you washing the deck of a sinking ship? Are you investing in a bank that has gone broke? Are you building on a foundation that is crumbling? What are you really living for these days? My friend, the will of God will last forever but the world is already passing out of existence even as we are talking because there is no future reward attached to it. *The pace, pressures, pleasures, practices, pursuits, places, programs, people and pomp of the world are all passing away.*

1 John 2:17 was the life verse of D. L. Moody, the great evangelist, and is inscribed on his tombstone: "He who does the will of God abides forever." This means that they abide forever or will constantly have a rich inheritance of reward and honor throughout the eternal ages of time.

This is John's way of saying, "Only one life, twilt soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

Missionary martyr, Jim Elliot said:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

In the same line of thinking Earl Radmacher said:

“We can’t take anything with us when we leave this earth to go to Heaven, but we can send an awful lot ahead. The dividends of Heaven’s stock market are out of this world!”

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- What affect will my decision have in relationship to my eternal reward?
- Is there any treasure that I can lay up in Heaven if I make this decision?

4. We must consider the priorities of God in our decision-making.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:33:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Jesus reminds us that our main interests, occupations and decisions in life must revolve around the kingdom of God. This means that we must learn to center our lives and decisions around the those things that are important and deal with kingdom living. Such things as hungering after righteousness (Matt. 5:6) and demonstrating Christian love, mercy and peace to others through our actions and the giving of time are important. Also, suffering for the Lord as we actively serve Him in this life is important (Matt. 5:7-12). Only as we practice these things and base our decisions on these important details of living instead of our own ambitions in life can we expect eternal reward.

This involves establishing priorities in your life. *If we are to first seek those things that are spiritual in nature and those things that will last for eternity, then we must begin to prioritize our lives.* We must place the spiritual matters on the top of our list. Of course, we have to work. But should work be at the top of our priority list? Not according to Jesus. This does not mean that we fail to be faithful in our work and jobs. ***What it does mean is that we should have spiritual things on a higher plain than secular things.*** If we keep the priority high in our lives, it will keep us from always striving for overtime and more hours at work. It will keep us from getting work and business above

the spiritual. *If we place the secular above the spiritual, then we will find ourselves moving in that direction and having a secular priority above that which is spiritual.* Keeping spiritual things above the secular things in life is vitally important and will help us in our decision making process. Remember, whatever you have at the top of your list is what you will keep there and strive to maintain above all else.

Warren Wiersbe has said:

“The Lord graciously gives each of us the same amount of time. It is what we do with it that counts.”

If we have been burning out on a periodical basis, then we must face the facts that we are overdrawn and need to lighten our load in some manner. ***The rule of thumb is to always begin with the temporal things instead of the eternal things! Begin with the secular and not the sacred things. In light of what Jesus said about priority, we must decrease the secular before the spiritual.*** We cannot completely do away with the temporal things such as work and money because we need to survive. However, when push comes to shove we need to begin the process of eliminating those things that will not last for eternity instead of eliminating the things that will last for eternity. This may involve cutting some overtime and readjusting our schedules so we can be obedient to God and faithfully attend church. Are you going to never come to church faithfully while you work? Is work more important than faithfulness to God and doing what is right? ***Also, learn to distinguish between necessities and niceties.*** Someone has called them the “artificial necessities of life.” Many times we feel that we need to work more so that we can have more. This is a vicious cycle that can trap us. Jesus said that He knows the things that we have need of in life. However, our needs many times become greed’s and these greed’s which are nothing more than a covetous lifestyle steal away our time and commitment for God and cause us to make bad decisions. Jesus reminds us about this viscous cycle in life.

Jesus said in Luke 12:15:

“Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”

When will we learn this lesson? Life has no meaning if we just get our mind and heart attached on things. We must also pause to remember that the only things that will remain for eternity are the spiritual things that have counted for God! *The secular things are temporal things that are fading away even as you practice them.* Dear friend, the spiritual on your priority list is important because it is the only thing that will last for eternity. Therefore, base your decisions while contemplating your spiritual priorities and your eternal reward connected with these priorities.

Matthew 6:33

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

But you may say, “There are so many spiritual things to do? Surely I cannot do them all.” This is true. *We must remember that we cannot do everything in the church and we are not the entire answer to getting God’s work done in the local church.* Therefore, there are times that I must make decisions about where to serve in the local church and then decide how much I can serve in proportion to my time. *But how much time you have to serve God usually depends upon your priority list and those things which you consider to be most important in your life.* This means that as you make the decision concerning how much you can serve in the local church, remember to keep the spiritual at the top of your list and make decisions based upon the right priority and not upon a twisted priority list. Many times it is not the matter of serving less in the local church ministry but lightening our load in the secular realm and being content with where we are at in life. Climbing the corporate ladder can lead to the subtle sin of covetousness that traps our lives and pierces us through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10 says:

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

Someone has said:

“If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area of his life.”

One day Abraham Lincoln was walking down the street with two small boys who were both crying loudly. A neighbor passing by inquired, "What's the matter, Abe? Why all the fuss?" Lincoln responded, "The trouble with these lads is what's wrong with the world; one has a nut and the other wants it!"

Covetousness is one of mankind's greatest sins. When giving the law, God specifically spoke against this wicked tendency. In fact, inordinate desire was one of man's first offenses. Remember Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

We must also remember what Jesus said about the most important priority in life.

Jesus said in Luke 10:39:

“And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.”

This one thing is needful. Jesus did not say that many things are needful. The spiritual matter of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him speak to your heart is needful. This must be at the top of your priority list. When other things phase out this part of your life, then you will become out of sync in all of your decision-making and priorities. *The priority of meditation and devotion in the Word of God (quiet time) is a needful and mandatory part of the Christian life.* You cannot expect God to lead you in your decision-making without having an established time where you can read God's Word and allow God to speak to your own heart. ***How can you make the right decisions in life if you are not allowing God to speak to your heart and direct you through His Word?***

If you do not have this priority established in your life, then you will find your mind and decision-making processes becoming hazy and uncertain. This is because we have not allowed God to speak to our hearts in the stillness of devotion and meditation. *A closed mind to the Word of God means a cloudy mind when it comes to making God-*

directed decisions. Many times we are not in the right position to make good decisions until we get back under the Word of God and begin to once again allow God to speak and minister to our hearts through worship and openness to Him.

Psalm 5:3

“My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct *my prayer* unto thee, and will look up.”

Someone once remarked:

“It’s amazing how much easier the wheels of mortal life spin, when we take time to worship God.”

Prayerful direction and worship through meditation upon God and His Word is what will help to clear the cobwebs out of your mind and help you make proper decisions based upon God’s guidance. Let us practice what Jesus practiced and we will be much better off for doing it.

Mark 1:35 says:

“And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.”

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will my decision choke out my devotional life with God in some measure?• Will my decision allow the secular lifestyle to override the spiritual aspect of my life?• Do I really need what I think I need? |
|---|

5. We must consider the work of God when making our decisions.

Hebrews 10:25 says:

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Will my decision take me away from church or will it cause the church to suffer in some measure because of my lack of commitment? This is a good question to ask ourselves as we go through life. Many decisions simply take us away from God’s work and God’s will for us to serve in the local church. Satan is aware of this as well. He wants us to make decisions that will affect our church attendance and commitment to the local assembly. ***Sometimes we make decisions with the intent of freeing ourselves up from attending church on a regular basis and being really committed to a local church.*** In the back of our mind, we tell ourselves that we need time off because our time is running out. We can very easily find ourselves in the trap that says, “I’ve done my part, now I will leave others do their part. I will free myself up and live freer. I will not dedicate myself to church the way I used to since I am older and retired. After all, I soon will not be able to go and do the things that I want to do.” There you go. You said it yourself! You want to do the things that you want to do. But does God really approve of those things that you want to do when they take you away from God’s design for faithful attendance and commitment in the local church? Beware of this mentality and mindset. This is the scare method of old age that the devil uses in order to redirect our thinking and get us to make improper decisions. *Our decision to free ourselves from church responsibility can become a smokescreen and actually cause us to become lazy and lax in our attendance and overall commitment?* When we make decisions to become lax in our church attendance because of age, money or other pressing circumstances in life, we can very easily be misguided. God tells us that our fruit of faithfulness and service must continue to ripen in our old age. Old age should not become a barrier to being faithful to God in any way that we possibly can.

Psalm 92:14

“They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.”

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Will my decision keep me from attending church faithfully?
- Will my decision keep me from using my gifts for the Lord?
- Will my decision disrupt the functioning of the local ministry?

6. We must consider the coming of God in our decision-making.

Titus 2:11-13

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking** for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

Jesus is coming again! God Himself is going to return (“the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”)! This means that we are to be looking with expectancy and anticipation for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The word “looking” denotes eagerness and patience as we wait. *We are to be living on our tiptoes or living with the expectancy of Christ’s return in our hearts.* The early Christians lived in this way. They lived in a moment-by-moment expectancy of Christ’s return. They believed that Jesus could return in their lifetime and that He could return at any moment. ***Many Christians today are living on their heels instead of their tiptoes from a spiritual standpoint.*** The world is pushing them back so that they are off balance in their Christian living and Christian commitment to God. In one sense, believers are to be living on their tiptoes realizing that Christ could return at any moment to inspect our lives and see what we are really doing for Him.

Hebrews 9:28

“So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that **look** for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

Some time ago President Ford came to Anderson, South Carolina. People were full of activity in light of His coming. The place was getting cleaned up and people were preparing for his arrival. If you are looking for Christ’s coming, there will be a sense of urgency in

your soul that will revitalize everything that you do for God. It will put enthusiasm and fire in your service for the Lord.

Philippians 3:20

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we **look** for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Dear friend, have you been looking for Him? Looking with expectancy and anticipation knowing that Jesus may return today? **We can get so busy in life that we forget to look!** *And when you stop looking you become caught up in the secular pace of society and squander your opportunities to serve the Lord.* Are you living in light of His return? Are you making decisions in light of His return? Does His imminent coming do something for your soul and revitalize your life? Has it been firing up your soul so that you get busy serving Him in light of His coming? When we look for the Savior, we will have fire in our step and commitment in our work for the Lord. *The coming of Christ will provide us with a different mindset when it comes to our activity for the Lord. It will help us to make decisions that are important in light of the imminent arrival of Jesus Christ.* It will help us to stay focused on what is really important in life in view of His coming and reward.

Revelation 22:12

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

There will be tears at this Judgment Seat of Christ. Tears of shame and regret. Tears of sorrow over the wasted hours and the wasted time and the lack of service that we have rendered to the Lord. **Tears of shame because we were too busy with our own schedule when Jesus returned instead of God’s schedule.**

1 John 2:28

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

Dear friend, get busy, get living, get going, get serving, get unretired, get spiritual, get real, get awake, get on fire, get moving, get looking, get loving, get running, get fueled up, get out of your chair, get motivated, get excited, get smart and whatever you do – get started today in doing it! For Jesus is coming! And I for one do not want to be ashamed before Him at His coming! I don't want to be caught lollygaging around and playing musical chairs. I don't want to be caught with my hand in the cookie jar! I don't want to be caught doing my own busy schedule and not God's schedule. I don't want to be ashamed before the Lord when He returns because we have made so many decisions that were world-centered and self-centered instead of eternity-centered! ***We must learn to make decisions based upon the light of His return and how we would want Jesus to find us when He returns.***

When Dwight Eisenhower was president, he vacationed in Denver Colorado. There was in Denver a 6-year-old boy who had incurable cancer. The boy expressed that he might see the president. One Sunday morning the president arrived in his presidential limousine. He walked up to the front door and knocked. The father opened the door in his blue jeans and T-shirt and with a days growth of beard. When he saw the president, he was speechless! The president took the 6 year old boy out to see the limousine and talked with him a while. For many days after this incident the father would recount the story in his mind and say, "And just think, there I stood with my old blue jeans, my old T-shirt and a days growth of beard. What a way to meet the president!"

Some of us are going to meet the Lord in such a way as this. We will stand in His presence with our old blue jeans and T-shirts of worthless works and busy schedules that kept Christ out of our plans and lives. And we will stand before the One who is far greater than any president! We will stand before the Lord with all of these old tattered sinful and selfish works and will hang our heads in shame. Dear friend, if you are too busy to serve the Lord, then you are too busy!

2 Timothy 4:8 says:

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Will my decision bring shame to me when Jesus returns?
- Will my decision keep me from the Lord’s praise when He returns?
- Will my decision cause me to love His appearing?

7. We must consider the contentment of God in our decision-making.

Philippians 4:11 says:

“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content.”

Many times we will make rash decisions based upon our discontentment with what we presently have in life. *In fact, many times we make and base our decisions on what we think we need to make us happy and more settled in life.* Paul learned the secret of contentment. The secret was to find God’s peace and rest in whatever situation he was facing in life. What a secret this is for the day in which we live. It’s the secret of experiencing peace and rest in all the changing seasons of life! ***The Christian needs to learn to make his decisions based upon this contentment principle in life.*** If he does not, sooner or later the believer will make a wrong decision based upon a greedy outburst, which is contrary to what God has for his life. How easy this happens in our lives today in a land that is filled with so much milk and honey. Many times we are not content in the state that we are in and selfishly seek for more and make our decisions upon this selfish ambition. Oh to be content in life! A contented mind is a continual feast. Oh how important it is to make all of our decisions based upon our settled and satisfied position in life.

Someone has stated:

“A contented man is the one who enjoys the scenery along the detours.”

When we start to sift through our saddened feelings of discontentment we will find ourselves making decisions for the wrong reasons. We will make decisions in order to satisfy our wants in life instead of God's wants for our lives. And remember: "If you are not satisfied with a little, you will not be satisfied with much."

We must learn to base our decisions on the principle of God's contentment in life (Philippians 4:11). Right decision-making involves thinking right about the all-sufficiency of Christ to meet our needs and not our greeds. Before making our decisions we must first learn to be victorious over the circumstances. This is what true contentment really is. We must learn to be victorious over the changes in our lives. Philippians 4:12-13 says:

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Someone once remarked about contentment:

"If the Giver gives you a hill to plough, don't level it."

William Shakespeare said:

"My crown is in my heart, not on my head;
Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones,
Nor to be seen: my crown is call'd content;
A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy."

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will my decision be based upon the contentment principle of life?• Will my decision result in a self-centered lifestyle of greed and gain? |
|---|

8. We must consider the glory of God in our decision-making.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says:

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Many Christians in the frantic pace of both their secular and spiritual schedules actually forget who they are living for and why they are serving in the church. They must remember that they are not living to please people or primarily serving people. We are ultimately living to please the Lord and serve Him (Psalms 100:1-2). Therefore, we want to honor and glorify the Lord in all of our decisions that we make in life concerning our service and work. This will help me keep perspective concerning my schedule in life and help me to reevaluate why I am making certain decisions. To glorify God means to promote honor and respect to God in light of His majestic greatness and absolute holy and righteous character. *When we forget about the glory of God, we will be more prone to make decisions based on our own glory and advancement in life instead of God's. In the end, we can become sidetracked in our decision-making processes.* We must continually remind ourselves that we want to glorify God in the decision that we are making. We want to bring honor to Him in view of His absolute majesty and holiness. The glory of God principle will not only keep us from making wrong decisions that involve questionable practices, it will also enable us to make decisions in a new light. It will get self out of the picture which so many times clouds our minds. Every decision I make in life should be geared to ultimately glorify and honor Him. As we make our decisions in life we should be able to say these words: “In my life Lord, be glorified today.” This will place a whole new perspective on my decision making. Lord, I want to please and glorify you in this decision and the outcome of this decision.

An old Roman proverb says:

“When the pilot does not know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.”

In a similar way, if we are not thinking about glorifying and pleasing the Lord by our decisions in life, then no decision will seem right to us! But when we focus on His glory and His pleasure, then everything suddenly seems so very different.

One Christian fellow was helping to carry the church chairs into the gym where the church was meeting in its early days. It was those days before a building program. Of course, there was much work to be done. As he carried the chairs he said, "Nobody in the church appreciates me for the job that I do. I have been carrying these chairs for three years." Immediately and older saint in the Lord responded by saying, "Brother, if that's who you are doing it for, you might as well not be doing it!"

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Will my decision please the Lord?
- Will my decision hit the target of God's glory?
- Will my decision honor God's timeless holiness?

9. We must consider the discipleship of God in our decision-making.

Jesus gave us His nonnegotiable terms for becoming the kind of disciple or follower that He wants. His words are cutting and right to the point!

Luke 9:23

"And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him **deny** himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Jesus uses the word "deny" and then illustrates what true denial is by using the figure or symbol of a "cross." The cross speaks of the surrender and sacrifice of one's life. The figure of carrying a cross depicted that Jesus had surrendered to the Father's will and that He was also going to sacrifice His life for the Father's will. *By way of illustration, Jesus is saying that you must carry your own personal cross in life and surrender and sacrifice your whole life to Him. You must ultimately be willing to die upon your own personal cross in life, if you are ever going to really follow the Lord.* The idea behind the word "deny" speaks of real surrender and sacrifice for the Lord Jesus. ***It means that you are ready and willing to put yourself on the altar and sacrifice your time, talents and tomorrows for God! You must surrender to Jesus and follow Him by denying***

yourself of selfish goals, worldly interests, plans, purposes and personal sins. You surrender anything and everything to the Lord Jesus that stands in the way of your devotion to Him. There are no shortcuts to discipleship.

Unless you constantly remember the terms for discipleship, which Jesus gave, you will be prone to make your decisions in order to make your life easier. But Jesus said that following Him and doing His work would require constant surrender and sacrifice. It would require dedication and labor. It would not be easy to do. ***The easy road is not the sacrificing road!*** The easy way out seems better for the moment but will not provide lasting fulfillment. No, it's not an easy road. But Jesus never said that it would be! Nehemiah built the wall and did this great spiritual work in what the Bible calls "troublesome times" (Daniel 9:25). This means that we should never wait around for things to get easier before we serve the Lord. We need to serve God right now and do the tasks that we know He has called us to do. Remember: From the devil's perspective, there is never a right time for a building program. There is never a right time to do God's work. There is never time to do God's work. We can always find a dark cloud on the horizon if we are looking for it. May God deliver us from the easy way of life. Jesus never said that it would be easy! Our lives of service will mean sacrifice and hardship. Turn your times of adversity into opportunities to serve the Lord. Even when life is hard we should be ready to continue to serve the Lord.

1 Corinthians 16:9 says:

"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and *there are* many adversaries."

Of course, this does not mean that we will never need to rest and balance out our lives. We must learn to relax if we are a workaholic. We cannot be a Texas Tornado of energy all of the time or we will burn out. And spirituality is never measured by constant activity. Jesus told His disciples who were following Him to rest and have some leisure time. It is not a sin to relax and enjoy leisure time. Everybody needs time off and relaxation. Nervous breakdowns, emotional burnout and various degrees of depression are caused by our inability to rest. We can become a victim of our own making.

Jesus said in Mark 6:31:

“... Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.”

Vance Havner warns us:

“If we don’t come apart and rest, we will come apart.”

All work and service without any rest will lead to weariness. And when we become too weary, we lose. The old adage is true: “A weary body is usually the sign of a foggy mind!” If you do not rest your mind, it will eventually become confused. You will not be able to make wholesome decisions in life. It pays to take some time off. God will not look down at you and think you are slacking. He may just be preparing and revitalizing you for the next phase or step.

However, let us never forget that Satan is always trying to corrupt our minds or thinking so that we make bad decisions in life which take us away from the normally hard road of real discipleship and sacrifice. ***Jesus never promised that serving the Lord would be easy and fit into our own timetable.*** But Satan comes along and tries to take us away from making those decisions to sacrifice our time and tomorrows for God. We will consider this in our last point.

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Will my decision keep me from being a disciple of the Lord?
- Will my decision allow me to carry the cross of surrender and sacrifice?
- Will my decision keep me from serving the Lord faithfully?

10. We must consider our devotion to God in our decision-making.

2 Corinthians 11:3 says:

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity (“devotion”) that is in Christ.”

Satan wants to ever beguile or deceive us by corrupting our minds concerning our “simplicity” or devotion to Jesus Christ and what He wants us to do in our day to day living. Beware of the devil. Satan wants to get in your mind or thinking process and confuse you. He wants to try to change your thinking about devotedness and dedication to Christ and what is right to do. Satan is a master at getting us to think on the present instead of the future. He wants to steal away our devotion to Christ. This is why we need to keep the cross before us and continually present ourselves as a living sacrifice to Christ. We need to have a heart for discipleship (surrender and sacrifice before the Lord) or else Satan will begin to confuse our minds about dedication or devotion to Christ.

However, in the most practical way devotion also means our time of meditation and fellowship with God. Satan wants to rob us of our time of prayer with God. He wants us to think that we are too busy to spend quality time with God in worship and meditation. This is his web, which he tries to spin in each of our lives. And sad to say, many of us become caught in his web. We begin to stray from our time of meditation and worship before the Lord. We begin to try to function and make decisions without staying in close touch with God. This is certainly the downfall in the decision-making process. How can we make good decisions if we are not really walking with God and possessing a strong relationship and fellowship with Him?

The old devil wants to confuse our thought life because of our lack of meditation and stillness before God (Psalms 46:10). The devil wants to bring us to the point where we cannot make any valid decisions. When this happens, we need to readjust our walk with God and become still before God so we can clear our minds and allow God to once again help us make proper decisions in life. God wants to guide us in all of our decision-making. But He cannot do this if we are not continuing in our devotion and worship of Him in our daily living. You can be sure that Satan knows this. Do we? For God's people, worship must come before work. Worship is to be the lifeline of the believer's life that keeps him from being caught up in the world

system and making wrong decisions. Worship or devotion keeps everything in perspective and keeps the believer's mind in focus.

William Bright said:

“And now the wants are told, that brought
Thy children to thy knee;
Here, lingering still, we ask for naught
But simply worship thee.”

Before you make your decision, ask yourself these questions:

- Will my decision keep me from having morning devotions or a devotional life at some point in the day?
- Will my decision rob me of time that I need for joyful worship?
- Will my decision rob me of time for reflection and the deeper life with God?

This paper was not written to explain every detailed way for the believer to know the will of God for his life in every situation. *There are times when we must make valid decisions between two spiritual endeavors in life that are equally good and noble.* In order to ascertain God's will for these situations we must ask God for wisdom (James 1:5) and allow God to speak to our hearts so that He can place the right desires within us (Psalms 37:4) and give us peace about our decisions (Philippians 4:6-7). We must also listen to the inner leading of the Holy Spirit's direction in our lives (Acts 8:29; 11:12; 16:6). We can also receive guidance through the servants of God who instruct us in the Word of God so that we can get our minds thinking in the right direction again (Proverbs 11:14; 24:6; 15:22). We can also see if God places circumstances in front of our lives to get our attention (Jonah 1:1-4, 17; Luke 22:34, 60; 2 Cor. 2:12). These matters of discovering the will of God are addressed in more detail in another paper entitled, "Knowing the Will of God."

For now, let me say that we should not have tunnel vision as we seek to discover God's will. By this I mean that we should not just be looking at the various circumstances that surround our lives when trying to figure out God's will. If we do this, we will start thinking that

there is a demon behind every chair that falls down or an angel in every cloud that we see in the sky which is trying to send us a message. *In short, we will drive ourselves crazy trying to rationalize circumstances.* In the same way, we cannot open up our Bible and point our finger on a certain page to find an answer and expect to immediately know how to make a decision. This is turning the Bible into a book of magic! Would you read any other book this way? Many times God uses a combination of all of these ways to reveal His will to our lives. We must learn to be patient and wait on God's leading through His Word, Spirit and appointed avenues. This means that we must stop trying to figure it out and let God direct us in His own time. ***You don't have to figure it out! Let God figure it out for you!*** Isn't this wonderful? ***Many times we push and shove trying to open up the doors ourselves instead of allowing God to open them up and show us His will.*** Only when we wait on the Lord and rest in Him can we truly be able to make the right decisions in life.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding (don't try and figure it out on your own). In all thy ways acknowledge him (acknowledge His will over your life and be ready to do it), and he shall direct thy paths (help you make the right decisions so you can do His will)."

This paper was specifically written to inform us how we can use some basic guidelines while making our decisions throughout life so that we can follow God's will. ***Many times we simply make the wrong decisions in life when we forget God's eternal perspective and God's spiritual priorities in life or when we have our minds subtly molded to the plans, pleas and purposes of this world.*** May God use this paper to help believers make better decisions, which are based upon eternal dividends and right priorities and a complete sacrifice to the Lord. In all of our decision-making we must be able to say to God what the Psalmist said in Psalm 143:10:

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou *art* my God: thy spirit *is* good; lead me into the land of uprightness."

And remember this:

- We have as much of Jesus Christ as we want!
- We have as much of the Holy Spirit as we want!
- We have as much of God the Father as we want!
- We have as much Bible knowledge as we want!
- We have as much Christian fellowship as we want!
- We have as much Christian involvement as we want!
- We have as much Church activity as we want!
- We only see what we want to see –
- We only hear what we want to hear –
- We only understand what we want to understand –
- We only know what we want to know –
 - We only do what we want to do!

There is always time to do God's will!

On the following pages I have prepared a "Priority Christian Living" test or exam that will assist you in making important decisions in your daily life. The questions are based upon this study. Be honest as you take this exam when you are faced with the decisions of life. I trust that it will be of some help to you today.

Priority Christian living

List the things that you are presently doing that will not gain eternal reward?

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 3. | 5. |
| 2. | 4. | 6. |

How much time do you spend doing these things?

Approximately ____ hours.

List those things which you feel will bring eternal reward or treasure in Heaven?

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 3. | 5. |
| 2. | 4. | 6. |

Have you been spending time in the one needful thing, which is devotional time with God?

Yes ____ No ____

Have your decisions been taking you away from your faithfulness to church, such as Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday prayer meeting services?

Yes ____ No ____

Will your decision hurt the church ministry in some measure?

Yes ____ No ____

Do you find yourself becoming burned out after a period of time? Is your burn-out two or three times a year or more?

_____ times a year.

What can you change to limit this burn out from occurring?

- A closer walk with the Lord?

Yes ____ No ____

- A lighter schedule at work?

Yes ____ No ____

- A lighter commitment to church?

Yes ____ No ____

Priority Christian living

If you choose a lighter commitment at church, how will this affect your actual faithfulness to God's House? Is your decision a smokescreen that will cause you to become lazy and lax in your attendance and overall commitment to the Lord?

Yes ____ No ____

Will your decision make your life easier so you no longer qualify, as the kind of sacrificing disciple that God wants you to be?

Yes ____ No ____

Are you ready to distinguish between the necessities and niceties for your life?

Yes _____ No _____

Have you been covetous in your decision making process and selfish?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you trying to climb the corporate ladder instead of God's ladder?

Yes _____ No _____

Has the devil influenced your mind in your decision?

Yes _____ No _____

Have you been a true disciple of Christ?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you ready to make some changes in your life so that you will live more for the future than for the present?

Yes _____ No _____

Are your standards for success God's standards?

Yes _____ No _____

Who are you trying to please?

People _____ God _____

Are you making your decision to live for God and glorify Him?

People _____ God _____

Have you been sitting at the feet of Jesus and listening to His Word?

Yes _____ No _____

Do you really deep down want to know the will of God and make the right decision?

Yes _____ No _____

Have you been trying to discover God's will for your life and make your decision without waiting for God?

Yes _____ No _____

Must you come apart and rest a while?

Yes _____ No _____

Are you content in life?

Yes _____ No _____

Read Philippians 4:19

Make a list of your absolute necessities in your life right now which you need to operate.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

How much do all of these needs cost? Be honest in your answer.

\$ _____

Make a list of your greed's or extras in life, which you do not need in order to survive and operate.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

How much money do you need to survive on without meeting all of your bonuses or extras in life? Once again, be honest in your answer.

\$ _____

Does this help you figure out your needs in life as opposed to your greeds? You may be able to make better decisions in your life based upon your actual needs instead of all the extras that you have and only think you need.

What are some of the main lessons that you have learned from this study?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.