



Maranatha Baptist Church
Equip University
Christian Living Track
Fearing and Following God

Class 7 – Anxious or Restful Decision-making

Introduction

Two kinds of decision-making

1. *Anxious decision-making. Here we are ruled by fear of man, circumstances, or outcomes.*
2. *Restful decision-making. Here we rest in our fear of God.*

Three Theories about God's Guidance

Theory #1: Guidance = Discerning God's Plan.

Theory #2: Guidance = Listening to God.

Theory #3: Guidance = Wisdom.

Our Enemy: Indwelling Sin

Sin blinds us and keeps us from making wise decisions.

Three Basic Categories of Decisions:

1. Decisions of Righteousness:
2. Decisions of Judgment:
3. Decisions of Triviality:

God Guides Us!

- God is in control (Proverbs 16:33).
- God has a plan for us (Philippians 4:19).
- God cares about the details of our lives (Matthew 10:30).

A Framework for Decision-Making

1. Consecration (Romans 12:1-2)

Consecration means that we need to understand ourselves and God, and how our responsibility relates to his providence.

2. Information (Romans 12:3)

Start with the question, “Is this prohibited by God?”

3. Supplication (Psalm 25:5; Luke 11:13)

What should we pray for? How should we pray?

- Pray for wisdom.
- Reveal sin in my heart.
- Sanctify my desires.

4. Consultation (*Proverbs 12:15, 13:10, 15:22*)

Who should you ask?

What about getting advice from non-Christians?

5. Meditation (*Joshua 1:8-9*)

What does meditation look like?

6. Decision – “*Just Do Something*”

7. Expectation (*Romans 8:28*).

Conclusion

When we rest in the sovereign goodness of God, we can trust the sufficiency of His Word to give us the wisdom and discernment we need to make decisions that are pleasing to Him and follow His will.

Additional Resources:

- Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*
- Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*
- Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*
- John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something*
- Tony Payne & Philip Jensen, *Guidance and the Voice of God*
- James Petty, *Step By Step*

Class Outline:

1. What is the fear of man?
2. What is the fear of God?
3. How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.
4. How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.
5. How do we fear man? We fear that people will harm us.
6. A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor
7. Anxious or Restful?
8. God's Providence
9. God's Will
10. Faithfulness
11. Tools of the Trade Part 1: God's Word, Prayer, Counsel
12. Tools of the Trade Part 2: Circumstances and Feelings
13. Panel Discussion—Fearing and Following the Lord