

How to Make Wise Decisions Titus 3:12-13

Introduction:

1. I love Paul's personal comments at the end of many of his letters. They may seem somewhat unimportant and trivial. You may even wonder why God allowed these kinds of statements to be in the Bible.
2. We know that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable, so there is a good reason why God allowed this kind of verse to be in your Bible.
3. They show us that Paul's life (even though he was an apostle) was mainly composed of everyday choices and decisions that he had to make. **Titus 3:12-13;**
2 Timothy 4:9, 11-13, 20-21
4. In the Christian life, I have found there are two extremes in regards to decision-making.
 - Some Christians are so fearful of "missing God's will" that they are very hesitant to make decisions. They are always looking for God to give them "a sign" before making a decision. When decisions **need** to be made, they sit idle.
 - Some Christians are like loose cannons. They spontaneously make decisions without any kind of thought, planning, or prayer. This is arrogance and self-will.
5. How exactly does a Christian make wise decisions?

First, rely completely on God's Word.

1. There are two truths your Christian life must be built upon:
 - **The total sufficiency of being in Christ** - if you need something beside Christ, then the cross is not enough.
 - **The absolute sufficiency of His Word** to communicate to you everything you need to know from God if the Bible is not enough, then we are all left to our own subjective feelings.
2. God's will is found in His Word. **Ephesians 1:9** declares, "*Having made known unto us the mystery of his will...*" **cf. Ephesians 5:17**
3. The idea of God's will being some mysterious, unknown plan that we have to **find** is foreign to Scripture. The will of God isn't something you **find**, but rather something you **do**. **Ephesians 6:6**
 - God's will for the believer is revealed in black and white in God's Word.
1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:18; Acts 20:27
 - The Bible thoroughly furnishes (to equip fully) the believer unto all good works.
2 Timothy 3:16-17
4. Christian, do you want to make good decisions? Your conviction must be, "The Bible is always right."
5. As you apply the Bible to the daily decisions of life, it will make most of your decisions for you.
6. Paul could confidently make decisions because he knew God's Word. As you store up sound doctrine in your heart, it renews your mind, so that you can go out and apply it to the details of your life and prove God's will. **Romans 12:2**
7. You hear preachers talking about looking at your circumstances and learning to "read God's signposts." This is ludicrous. God doesn't communicate to you through

your circumstances, but rather through His Word. You are then to take His Word and apply it to the circumstances of life.

- Circumstances constantly change and your feelings about the circumstances change, but God's Word doesn't change.

Second, yield yourself to the Spirit of Christ within you.

1. If you are saved, God's Spirit lives and dwells inside of you. **Romans 8:9**
2. **Galatians 5:25** says, *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*
 - To walk in the Spirit simply means that you are fully trusting Christ and His Word in every situation of life. No matter where you go or what you do, you are depending upon Christ's Spirit within you.
 - When this happens, you are "led of the Spirit." **Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18**
3. The opposite is to walk after the flesh. This simply means that I walk in self-will, neglecting His Word and my total need of Him.
4. When I am consciously depending upon Christ's Spirit (who lives within me) with an intelligent understanding of His Word, I make wise decisions.
5. When I depend on myself and I am ignorant or neglectful of His Word, I make bad decisions.
6. You must yield to Christ's Spirit in prayer because He lives within you to teach you the Word of God. He then leads you in the application of it to the details of your life. **Romans 8:26**
7. The yielding of ourselves to God and the renewing of our mind through His Word are both seen in **Romans 12:1-2**. What is the result? You prove the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Becoming a Wise Decision-Maker

1. Here are four questions to ask yourself:
 - Have I yielded myself completely to Christ's Spirit?
 - Is there a clear Bible command concerning this decision?
 - Is there a Bible principle that will guide me in this decision?
 - Which choice would be most prudent in this situation?
2. We see Paul constantly making decisions based on what was most prudent and beneficial in that particular situation. **Ephesians 6:21-22; Philippians 2:19-25; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 2:1; Titus 3:12-13**
3. Isn't it interesting how Paul made decisions? He studied God's Word and understood the purpose and plan of God for today. So, when faced with decisions, he yielded to Christ in prayer, looked at the situation, decided what would be the most spiritually beneficial thing to do, and made a decision.
4. God has given you His Spirit, placed you in His family as an adult son or daughter, given you His Word, and now desires for you to apply that wisdom to the details of your life.
5. Quit relying on signs, circumstances, and inner hunches, and realize that you are complete in Christ, and you have everything you need in His Word and in His Spirit to make wise decisions that will bring glory to Him.
6. If you are not saved, the first decision God wants you to make is to believe on Christ and be saved. This is God's will for your life. **1 Timothy 2:4**