

The Six Phases of Faith to Reach Your Dream

Phase 2- How to Make Wise Decisions

A dream is worthless unless you wake up and get to work on it. You have to move from stage one to stage two, which is the stage of the decision: when you decide to set God's dream for your life in motion.

God gave Moses the dream of delivering Israel from 400 years of slavery, but he had to make the decision to confront Pharaoh and that was not easy. God gave Noah the dream of saving the people from the flood, but he had to build the ark. To Abraham He gave the dream of building a nation, but he had to leave his comfort, his home and go to a place where he had never been. You won't receive God's dream for your life unless you get up and decide to work on it.

It's not about making quick decisions but about making the right decisions. It's easy to make quick decisions, but one needs wisdom to make the right decisions. Today we are going to look at a simple, biblical, and practical plan to make wise decisions in your career, marriage, finances, health, children and whatever else it may be.

1. If you're going to make wise decisions the first principle is: **pray for guidance**. Before you do anything you need to get God's perspective on the issue. James 1.5 says: **If any of you need wisdom, you should ask God and it will be given to you**. If God gives you dreams, it makes sense to ask Him how to reach them.

Proverbs 28.26 says: **A man is foolish to trust himself. But those who use God's wisdom are safe**. To make wise decisions you need more than hunches or intuition. Some decisions you can make in an instant, but for important life decisions you need God's wisdom and direction. Therefore, you should ask God: What do you want me to do? Because it's what God wants and not what we want, we must ask God for guidance.

2. If you're going to make wise decisions the second principle is: **know the facts**; that is, you must have all possible information before making important decisions. There is no contradiction between faith and facts. It's wise to find out all you can before you make a decision.

Prov. 13.16 **Every prudent man acts out of knowledge**. In other words, inform yourself.

Prov. 18.13 **How stupid to decide before knowing the facts!**

Statistics from the Labor department show that 90% of new businesses fail before the first year and the surviving 90% fail within 5 years. Why so many fail? Because they are based on uninformed enthusiasm. People have great ideas but do not seek information. That is why many marriages fail also. Couples marry out of enthusiasm and feelings but do not prepare themselves adequately.

Many find themselves in financial crises because they make emotional decisions about buying things before checking if they really can afford it. Therefore you need to learn to ask yourself: What do I need to know before making this decision?

3. If you go to make wise decisions the third principle is: **ask for advice**. Once you know what you need to know, seek advice. Talk to someone who has already made a similar decision. For example, do not start a company before talking with someone who is already in that business, or do not follow a career or studies without talking to someone who is already following the same path. Do not marry without talking to others. Seek to learn from the experiences of others, even from their mistakes.

Proverbs 24.6 affirms that ...**victory is won through many advisers**. It is wise to learn from experience, but it is wiser to learn from the experience of others. You don't have the time to learn all things from the fruit of your own experience. You don't have time to make all the mistakes and learn from them. You must learn from the successes of others and also from their failures. If you are wise you will try to NOT learn it all by yourself but you'll ask for advice since that's faster and easier.

Fools are those who don't seek advice, and if you can't do it, it is because you have a problem with your ego and you ought to deal with it. If you can't learn from other people you're never going to succeed in life.

Prov. 20.18 says: **Get good advice and you will succeed**. Be humble and seek advice before making a decision. First you need to ask yourself: What do I need to know before making this decision? And secondly you should ask: Who should I talk to before making this decision?

4. If you are going to make wise decisions the fourth principle is: **count the cost**. That's important because every decision in life has a price tag. Maybe is time, money, effort, friends, reputation, etc. There will always be a price to pay so you must count the cost before making a decision.

We read in Prov. 20.25 that: **It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and later to consider his vows**. It's a trap to make impulsive, emotional decisions or commitments without thinking first, without considering the cost of those decisions and commitments.

Making quick decisions isn't as important as making the right decisions, and a right decision is an informed decision. When people are pressing you to make a decision, it's okay to say "*I will give you an answer later!*" The right decision is taken when you inform yourself, when you ask for advice and you count the cost. But that shouldn't be an excuse not to make a decision, because not making a decision is making a decision.

Quite often we decide to do things that end up costing more than we expected and that end up not being worth our commitment, time, energy and so forth. Because every decision has its cost, we must ask ourselves before deciding: Is it worth it? We are taught in Scripture to count the cost because there is always a price to pay. But even if we have to pay a price, God always give us back more than we paid.

5. If you're going to make wise decisions the fifth principle is: **be prepared for problems**. Although you can't anticipate every problem you can still prepare yourself for those that you know may arise, might it be delays, difficulties or dead ends. Solomon said in Proverbs 27.12: **A sensible man watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.**

Making wise decisions doesn't mean you won't face problems, delays or other difficulties. A wise person knows he will encounter problems in every decision he makes but prepares for them. You can't ignore problems because they are not going to ignore you and you should prepare for them without trying to solve all of them ahead of time. If you try to do it you won't make any decisions.

The question you have to ask is: [What could go wrong?](#) What are the consequences of this decision? It is important to ask this question to be better prepared in the decision making process.

6. Finally, if you're going to make wise decisions the sixth principle is: **face your fears**. Fear is at the root of all indecisions and the reason why many dreams aren't fulfilled. The fear of making a mistake, fear of failure, fear of shame, rejection, fear of commitment, fear of what others will say. Fear makes us want to not make decisions, but not deciding is to decide.

Because we don't like to admit that we are afraid we make excuses. Moses said, Lord I can't take the people out of Egypt because I can't speak. Gideon said: I'm too young. Abraham said: I'm too old. What's your excuse for not deciding to follow your dream? Some will say *I have no time; I have no money, experience, resources*. Or then you might say, *if I was married, others would say if I only was single, older or younger, or if you were in another country or speak better English, etc*. Excuses like these ones are what keeps you from making decisions and embracing and achieving the dreams that God has for your life. Fear prevents you from making the decision that God wants you to make.

Ecl. 11.4 **If you wait for perfect conditions, you'll never get anything done**. Perfectionism paralyzes potential. God always used imperfect people in imperfect conditions, with imperfect tools, in imperfect moments to do His will. If you expect the perfect person to arrive, or you to be perfect, or that the conditions may be perfect, that will be a problem. The basic commitments of life must be made under imperfect conditions, even your commitment to God.

The answer to overcome fear is faith. Rom. 8.31 says that: **If God is for us, who can be against us?** In other words, you can trust in God, you can start moving despite the problems, doubts, fears. The fear disappears only when you act against it, when you do the things you fear.

If you know what the will of God is and He gave you a dream, then make the decision and move on despite your fears. Your life must be dominated by what God wants you to do and not by your fears. The question you have to ask is: [What do I fear?](#) Is my fear substantiated or is an excuse?

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for". You were created to go far, to face the storms, to navigate and not to live in the harbor so that you may to be safe. You ought to face your fears and not allow them to rob you of God's dreams for your life.

Pray for guidance; know the facts: ask for advice; count the cost; be prepared for problems and face your fears. These steps and these five questions can help you make good decisions and can be used in every area of your life.

I end by letting you know that there are some decisions that we all have to make:

a. The most important decision that will change your life is to give your life to Jesus Christ and become part of his family, the Church. If you haven't done so, today is the day to make that decision.

b. The second decision that we all have to make is to commit yourself to follow the spiritual disciplines that will help you grow: reading the word of God, talking to God through prayer, setting aside time alone with God so that He can be alone with you and talk to you. You must be part of a church because that is the will of God for your life.

c. The third decision we all have to make is to use our talents, gifts, and abilities to serve God and others. I think some of us have been sitting on the bench for too long and it's time to enter game. We need you to make that decision because the Church and others depend on you deciding.

d. The fourth decision that will change your life and the life of others is to begin to share the good news with those around you. We ought to become messengers, ambassadors of Christ.

e. The fifth decision we all have to make is the decision to discover and fulfill God's purpose for our lives and to live a life that honors Him.

Do something great with your life for Jesus' sake. Do not waste your life. Do not live a life of mediocrity. Do not be an undecided believer, lukewarm, superficial or immature. Seek to be all that God wants you to be. You must decide to commit and serve God at with all your heart and that will determine your destiny. Not to decide is to decide. What decision do you need to make today?

Let us pray:

Father, there are many people who have dreams but that are afraid to make a decision to follow that dream. You don't want us to be impulsive but to make wise decisions. Help us to practice these steps taught in your word.

Help us not to walk ahead of you, but to ask for guidance, to get information, to be humble and seek advice before making decisions because we do not know everything. Father, help us ask the right questions.

We all have secret fears that hold us back, that prevent from following and from committing everything to you. Help us to realize that these fears come from our enemy whom you already have conquered and overcome. Helps make wise decisions this week, in Jesus name. Amen