

No. 50 How to Make Decisions That Lead to Success

PLEASE NOTE: Emphasize the value of applying Scriptural counsel when making decisions

JEHOVAH HAS GIVEN US FREE WILL (3 min.)

Jehovah God has given humans the freedom to make choices (De 30:19; /vs 239 ¶3)

In today's complex world, we may feel overwhelmed by the decisions we must make

With Jehovah's help, we can learn to make good decisions and implement them

JEHOVAH HAS EQUIPPED US TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS (7 min.)

Jehovah has given us tools that can help us to make good decisions

By making use of these gifts *beforehand*, you will be better prepared when you face a decision

He has given us his Word, the Bible, which contains wise, beneficial guidance (Isa 48:17)

Read God's Word daily, and think deeply about what you read [Read Psalm 119:97, 100]

Learn God's laws, and be determined to follow them

Identify Bible principles that can guide you when there is no applicable Bible command

Learn from the outcomes of decisions made by Bible characters (1Co 10:11)

Jehovah has also given us "thinking ability" and a conscience (Pr 2:10, 11; Heb 5:14)

Train your conscience in advance so that it will function properly when you face a decision

FOLLOW STEPS THAT LEAD TO A GOOD DECISION (10 min.)

When you are faced with a decision, following these Bible-based steps can bring good results

(1) *Do not be hasty* (Pr 21:5)

Take time to think about your options and the possible outcomes of each choice [Read Deuteronomy 32:29]

Consider how your decision will affect others and how it will affect your relationship with Jehovah (1Co 10:24, 31-33)

(2) *Pray for wisdom* (Jas 1:5; w19.11 27 ¶7)

Ask Jehovah to help you identify relevant Bible principles and understand how to apply them

(3) *Do thorough research* (Pr 2:3-5; w19.11 27 ¶8)

Make good use of research tools and publications provided through the Christian congregation

You can ask mature Christians for advice, but do not ask them to make your decision for you (Pr 20:18; Ga 6:5)

(4) *Analyze your motives* (Pr 16:2; w19.11 27-29 ¶9-10)

Avoid being guided solely by your emotions (Pr 28:26; w17.03 16 ¶12-13)

After taking these steps, do not put off making your decision (Jas 1:7, 8)

IMPLEMENT YOUR DECISION (4 min.)

Once you have made your decision, work hard to implement it (1Co 9:26; 2Co 8:11)

Rely on Jehovah for the courage and strength to act (Php 2:13)

You may experience difficulties even when you have made a good decision (Ps 34:19)

Focus on what you are trying to accomplish rather than on the challenges (Ga 6:9)

At times, it may be necessary to change your decision (Ec 3:6; w19.11 29 ¶12)

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT DECISION (4 min.)

Your most important decision is whether to dedicate your life to Jehovah (Mt 16:24)

Do not rush into baptism, but do not put it off unnecessarily (Lu 14:28; Jas 4:8, 17)

If something is holding you back, identify the obstacle and make a plan to overcome it

If you are a dedicated servant of Jehovah, stick to your decision to serve him (Nu 30:2)

Look to Jehovah for help when you face challenges (Ps 119:173)

JEHOVAH CARES ABOUT THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE (2 min.)

Your decisions matter to Jehovah (Pr 27:11)

He wants you to be happy (Jas 1:25)

If you allow him to guide you, you will make decisions that lead to success (Pr 3:5, 6)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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