

# ON MAKING DECISIONS 1 KINGS 12

How do we make decisions? Is there some sort of plan / scheme / flow chart?

## I. Establish God's purpose(s)

**When we were on a roundabout we immediately discovered we needed to know not only the correct road but also the correct destination.**

I must know my destination or all roads are the wrong roads!

Acts 13:36 For David, after he had served his own generation **by the will of God**, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? **mine hour** is not yet come.

John 7:3-9 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For *there is* no man *that* doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. For neither did his brethren believe in him. Then Jesus said unto them, **My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.** The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil. Go ye up unto this feast: I go not up yet unto this feast; **for my time is not yet full come.** When he had said these words unto them, he abode *still* in Galilee.

John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, **because his hour was not yet come.**

John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; **for his hour was not yet come.**

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 12:23 And Jesus answered them, saying, **The hour is come**, that the Son of man should be glorified.

John 13:1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew **that his hour was come** that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

God's purposes will make most of our decisions for us.

### How do we determine our purposes?

1. Responsibility
2. Passion
3. Personality
4. History
5. Ability(ies)

**For too many of us, our biggest problem is we make too many decisions → which risks too many bad decisions. How can I make a choice apart from knowing my destination?**

## II. Expose & evaluate your biases

Proverbs 3:7 **Be not wise in thine own eyes:** fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

Proverbs 12:15 **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:** but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which **seemeth** right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: **but the fool rageth, and is confident.**

Proverbs 16:2 **All** the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weighth the spirits.

Proverbs 26:12 **Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.**

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 16:12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:

**The list of biases can be an almost *unlimited* list & → they don't have to be / usually are not wrong things!**

Position	Area of the city	Ease	House	Pleasure / hobby
Days off	Car(s)	Vacation	Culture / sub-culture	
Back East	Out West	Up North	Down South	
Near family	Or, away from family			

The country, a lake, a river or the mountains.

### **III. *Enumerate* your options**

Genesis 49:3-4 Reuben, thou *art* my firstborn, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power: Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defiledst thou *it*: he went up to my couch.

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* meddle not with them that are given to change:

Proverbs 27:8 As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so *is* a man that wandereth from his place.

**If you have too many decisions or too many options → see #1**

### **IV. *Enlist* good (&/ Godly) counsel**

Proverbs 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 8:34-35 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Proverbs 9:8-9 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Proverbs 20:18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

#### **Board of counselors:**

##### **1. A group**

All of us are wiser than any one of us!

##### **2. Knowledgeable**

##### **3. Godly &/ experienced/mature**

Ungodly can evaluate ...but they cannot evaluate the purpose, meaning & significance of our choices.

##### **4. Objective**

1 Kings 22

### **V. *Evaluate* the evidence**

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

James 5:16-17 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Can't I pray before this? Yes! But not about the decision since the Lord leads us to obey & not pray.

1. Pray
2. Think
3. Discuss

### **VI. *Elect* (choose) the best**