

Faith to Be Led

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

Text: Psalm 119:105

The way we make **decisions** in life has a lot to say about the kind of faith we have in Jesus Christ. The very process we take in making decisions reveals our “Faith Temperature”.

Some decisions are very clear **moral** issues. Lying is wrong, stealing is wrong and bad attitude is wrong. There are things we do not need to pray about because the Bible is absolutely clear about certain things. We don't need special insight concerning hate, prejudice, or marrying a non-Christians. If something is contrary to what the Bible says then it cannot be the will of God because it violates the truth of scripture.

Every moral decision, every supposed manifestation of the Spirit, every sermon by a preacher no matter how clever or charismatic is to be judged by the **word** of God. It is God's Word that shapes our theology, our decisions and our habits rather than religious traditions or philosophy. It is amazing how many Christians do not use the Bible as their guide in pursuing spiritual things. Many people simply follow a particular spiritual tradition they were born into. Many people's faith is stale simply because they are relying on something other than the **living** word of God to reveal the living God to them. When we get to heaven God will not at all be concerned with our denominational positions and traditions. We should be asking, "what does the Bible say?"

Some issues are not about morals but they do require **sanctified** reasoning. The Bible doesn't say that we need to show up for work on time every day. But if you understand the principle of sowing and reaping, you will choose to be punctual or early. Also, we are to do our work as unto God Himself. The Bible doesn't tell us how to respond to our spouse or children in every situation. If they are upset and discouraged, it is wise to be comforting and supportive.

There is an important type of decision making that involves situations with no right or wrong element and no Bible passage directly applies. Life presents us with many **forks** in the road and we have to make a choice which direction to take. You can get all kinds of advice from “follow the Crowd” to which some Christians respond God's way is narrow and hard. (That verse has nothing to do with those types of decisions.) Some adventurers will say "take the road less traveled", quoting the famous poem from Robert Frost. Nice advice, but it may have nothing to do with the will of God. Many people are making decisions without even a thought of **seeking** God and His will. Many sincere Christians spend more time going with their gut than going to their knees. Why waste time on intuition when we can have revelation.

Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Corinthians 3:19, 1 Corinthians 2:4-6, James 1:5 A Faith filled believer will pray until they discover God's will. Things like changing a job, moving, who we are to marry, choosing a school for our children, buying a home or a car, where we go to church. We must remember God wants to show us His way and will in all of these situations. He wants to be included and consulted in our decisions.

People often ask about discovering God's will in the **gray** areas of life. Gray areas are by their very nature questions of right and wrong. Should we do something or not?

For instance, should I go to see a certain movie, or to an event? Should I eat or drink certain foods? Should I participate in a certain business venture or investment?

Gray areas are not harmless in nature. The very fact that they are gray means that they have a mixture of light and darkness. There are certain things that if we get involved in them means we are living in compromise. God never calls us to compromise but to live holy.

When it comes to so called “gray” areas there are five questions that can help us to make a quality and a Godly decision:

- 1) Will what I am going to do bring glory to God? **1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV), Colossians 3:17**
- 2) Is what I am getting involved in going to require that I be unequally yoked? **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**
- 3) Is what I am doing walking by faith? **Romans 14:22-23** Am I certain, beyond any shadow of doubt, that what I am doing will be pleasing to God?
- 4) Is what I am doing in anyway compromising my walking in love? **Romans 14:14-22**
- 5) Are the decisions I am making not only permissible are they beneficial? One of today’s reasons for doing many things is “because I can”. This should never be the only gauge to measure our decisions. **1 Corinthians 10:23 (NLT), 1 Corinthians 6:12 (AMP)**

Wherever God leads us, there is an umbrella or covering of God’s protection and supply that stays over our heads. Under that covering are the divine resources of wisdom, grace, finance and all the other things we need in order to do what God has asked. That does not mean that there will not be any problems or difficulties. However wherever He leads us He must then, by necessity, help us.

It is important to understand that God’s umbrella only covers us where He leads us. **Isaiah 30:21** If we choose to turn left when God wants us to go right, we cannot expect Him to support the plans we made on our own. There are many people who are trying to make the covering of God’s blessing follow them as they make unilateral decisions in their lives, and it does not work. Just because you have declared yourself to be a Christian doesn’t mean that God is obligated to supply your needs as you do your own thing. God is only obligated to HIS Word. **Psalms 119:133 (NKJV & AMP)** It is the steps of a righteous person that are ordered of God. A righteous person is in right standing with God and therefore will be in step with Him.

One of the first steps of spiritual guidance is to assume that we could be wrong. Sometimes we misunderstand and sometimes we misread or misheard what God was saying. There are many times God’s people in the Bible had to go back and make sure exactly what God was saying. (David, Peter, Gideon, Paul, Samuel) It is not a sign of weakness to look for confirmation. **Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 15:22** Remember Gideon used a fleece. **Psalms 25:9, Psalm 48:14**

In today’s church we have a serious shortage of faith in a living speaking God. Recent research by George Barna shows that fewer than 10% of church going Christians make important life decisions based on God’s Word and seeking His will in prayer. That means that 90% decide on the basis of their own intelligence, people’s opinion or whim and fancy.