

Genesis 1:27-28

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

After God created man in His own image He gave him responsibility.

- The person who is responsible is the person expected to make decisions.
- This means that you are responsible to make decisions.
- Man had to decide what to call the animals
- Man was given responsibility before getting a whole range of rules.
- When your will is crushed you lose the power to make decisions.
- One of the central leadership qualities is the ability to make quality decisions.
- Your life is the summation of your choices.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

You are making decisions towards life or towards death every moment.

- Types of decisions and choices

Marriage; Faith; Friends; Alliances; Moving geographically; Going deeper with God; Studying; Having a difficult conversation (War); Career; Use of time (killing time, spending time or investing time); Health; Habits; Church Choice (Doctrine, Character of leaders, vision, friendship, growth, and service opportunity); Taking on a particular sport e.g. golf; Giving Up (Relinquish); Giving; Forgiving; Scalability (How much do you want to grow? How big? Or will you settle)

Are there any areas of self deauthorisation in your life? This is where God has permitted you to decide but you still need to give yourself that permission. There are boundaries in decision-making.

- You choose your faith as an individual
- You are responsible for your attitude
- You decide whom you will marry
- God has given you the power to choose
- Your choices have consequences

The main growth step for many people is biblical decision-making. If they master this then they will go to their next level. Unfortunately many are stuck with counterfeits to this.

What are some alternatives to biblical decision-making?

1. Soulsh decision-making

Decisions stemming from selfish ambition, anger, offence, unhealthy competition, jealousy/envy, insecurity

2. Passive decision-making

Making no decision is a decision in itself

Fatalism is a form of passivity

Waiting on God when God is waiting for you is a form of passivity

3. Fear based decision-making

An example of this is when a single lady says she stayed on in a bad relationship because she was afraid of being alone.

Fear of being left behind

4. Decisions made from victimstance (I was manipulated or bullied)

What needs to line up in biblical decisions and choices?

As we go through these, figure out if any of these are a growth step for you?

1. Alignment with the Word of God

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

To admonish can mean to warn, guide, urge, advise and recommend.

Is what I want to do scriptural? Does it glorify Jesus?

John 8:31

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

2. Your Conscience

Romans 2:14-15

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Be careful that your conscience does not become seared.

1 Tim 4:2

by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

3. Prophetic alignment

1 Tim 1:18

Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well,

NLT

Timothy, my son, here are my instructions for you, based on the prophetic words spoken about you earlier. May they help you fight well in the Lord's battles.

There is power in agreeing with words spoken in the past. This is a powerful weapon of war. God is not confused. If there is no consistency with what God has said in the past then ask; Am I in a new season? Was the previous word for another season? Should I have rejected the previous word?

Acts 16:9-10

9During the night, Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10As soon as Paul had seen the vision, we got ready to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them....

4. The Peace of God

Colossians 3:15 AMP

Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this peace indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always].

It must be God's peace. Be careful of your emotional state. Why? There are unrenewed parts of us. Our emotions are part of our redeemed self and also our flesh. You can have a positive emotion based on a lie.

5. Wise Counsel

Prov 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

Proverbs 24:6

For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counsellors there is victory

Proverbs 27:9

Oil and perfume make the heart glad, So a man's counsel is sweet to his friend

Do you have friends that can give you wise counsel?

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 18:1

He who separates himself seeks his own desire. He quarrels against all sound wisdom.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

This can be through people face to face or through books and resources.

6. Providential Circumstance

2 Cor 2:12-13

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and a door stood open for me in the Lord, 13I had no peace in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.

God-incidents are an example of this

7. Timing

Proverbs 19:2

Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who makes haste with his feet errs.

Proverbs 21:5

The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Do you have all the facts yet?

Proverbs 18:13

He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.

Proverbs 18:17

The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him.