

Part 2 – FIVE KEYS TO MAKING DECISIONS

How does a wise person get deceived (1 Kings 11:4)... and how does a strong believer fall into sin (2 Samuel 1:19)? ...Because the battle is deeper than intellect, and stronger than human strength.

Life is not neutral, it's always moving in a direction, shaped by the voices we listen to and the choices we make. And the choice is fully ours.

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 *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 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.* (Deuteronomy 28)

Every decision moves you somewhere. And the battle behind those decisions isn't really what's around you... it's what's within you (James 1:13-15). **That's why Proverbs is critical for today.** It teaches you to discern the voices that shape your heart before they become the decisions that determine your direction. Our everyday choices DO have eternal impact!

FIVE KEYS

Life is much more spiritual than many people realize. Decisions have the potential of opening doors to either God's wisdom and direction or the enemy's deception. Even wise people can be deceived, and strong believers can fall into dark sin when they stop guarding their heart.

These five keys are a practical guide to remaining sensitive to the Holy Spirit, walking in wisdom, and making decisions that lead to life instead of spiritual compromise.

1. Guard your heart | Proverbs 4:23 *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

- The heart is the center of our spiritual life. Our words, attitudes, choices, and actions all flow from it. Whatever fills the heart will eventually be seen in the way we live.
- A guarded heart produces life, God's wisdom and spiritual understanding. An unguarded heart opens the door to compromise, deception, etc. Proverbs 25:28 *Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control.*



- **Key** | There is a critical need to learn to filter voices through God’s principles in the Word, to remove areas of compromise, and protect your spirit by dealing immediately with thoughts and attitudes that will compromise your relationship with God.
2. **Submit every major decision to God** | Proverbs 3:5–6 *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*
 - Direction **MUST** be determined by surrender to the One who knows the path, not by our logic or understanding.
 - **Key** | Pray first, invite God into every choice and trust His leading.
 3. **Reject independent self-reliance** | Proverbs 3:7 *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun (reject) evil.* (11:14)
 - Deception begins when you trust your own understanding above the Spirit’s leading or trusted counsel.
 - **Key** | Stay teachable, seek trusted counsel, test your reasoning with God’s Word.
 4. **Every decision we make plants a seed** | Galatians 6:7-9 *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*
 - The life we are living today is the harvest of previous choices, and tomorrow’s harvest is being shaped by the decisions we make today. Small choices repeated over time determine direction, character, etc.
 - **Key** | Evaluate where your choices are taking you long-term. Look at the direction *and* the destination of choices. (QR code takes you deeper into the topic of sowing and reaping.)
 5. **Our decisions and choices can have eternal impact! Two examples...**
 - **The prodigal** | Wrong decisions often take people farther than they intended to go. A decision may seem right, but when it is based on wrong motives, it can lead to devastating consequences. The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11–32 is a powerful example of this truth!!
 - **Abraham** | However, the Bible is also filled with people who made right decisions and impacted generations beyond their lifetime. Abraham’s difficult choice to leave his family and country to follow God changed history forever (Genesis 12:1–5). **One surrendered decision can affect lives for eternity!**



Making it real | Do the decisions you make line up with God’s Word? Are they led by His Spirit, and surrendered to His will... even if He redirects you?

Scan the QR code and read the questionnaire on “Making Spirit Led Decisions in Life.”



Making Spirit Led Decisions in Life.

What decision are you facing? _____

(Honestly answer as many as possible)

1. Does this decision draw me closer to God or away from Him?

- Will this strengthen or weaken my prayer life, purity, walk with God and fellowship?
- Is this choice leading toward life or toward spiritual drift? (Romans 8:6)
- Would I make this same decision if Jesus visibly stood beside me? (Colossians 3:17)

2. What voices are influencing me to make this decision?

- God's Word?
- The Holy Spirit?
- Our culture and social pressure?
- Fear?
- Pride?
- Fleshly desire? (Romans 8:5-6)
- Am I ignoring convictions, or godly counsel? (Proverbs 11:14)
- Does this decision create peace from God or does it create pressure, confusion, secrecy, and unrest? (1 Corinthians 14:33)

3. Am I genuinely seeking God's will or trying to justify what I want? (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- Is there any hidden compromise, temptation, or deception connected to this decision? (James 1:13-15)
- Am I making this choice based on temporary feelings or eternal values?
- Have I truly prayed and surrendered this decision to God or have I already decided?

4. What direction will this choice take my life in six months or even five years?

- What fruit could this produce in my life, marriage, ministry, finances, or testimony? (Matthew 7:16-20)
- If everyone followed my example in this area, would it lead them closer to Christ?

5. Would I be comfortable if trusted spiritual leaders or my family knew the details of this decision?

- Is this decision consistent with the character and convictions I claim to live by?

6. What have I learned from this experience?