

# Decision . . . Decision

*“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.” (James 3: 17-18)*

Are you thinking about certain issue and want to decide about it? Are you in between of multiple options and you need to decide which option you have to follow? Are you right now pressured to give an answer about certain matter? Are you standing by a crossroad where two roads begin, and you are asking yourself which way to walk through? Are you still thinking about what you have been decided whether it is right or wrong? In all these situations what you need is wisdom.

One of the human struggles is how to make or to reach the right decision. May it be the issue for his own personal life, or while he is under daily pressure at work, or on a moment that he needs to choose from series of decisions that ought to be winning and triumphant. The mandate of making the right decision is not only the real need of every individual, but it is essential for every institution, establishment, organization, or government of a country. What controls each one of these offices and in order for them to be functioning well, depends on every right decision that they make and take.

We are directed to the word “wisdom” as the essential requirement for the right decision. Not the wisdom of human, but the wisdom that come from the Lord, our God; the heavenly wisdom. God has sent His son Jesus from heaven to earth. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sins. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)* Anyone who believes in Jesus as the Saviour from sin and death and takes Him as Lord of His life will have eternal life. And anyone who receives Jesus receives heavenly wisdom. The Bible speaks about this kind of wisdom; like the passage above that speaks about it in contrast to the earthly and unspiritual wisdom.

*“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all:*

- 1) **Pure** - not corrupted by any form of wicked works and injustices. Before making any decision check your motives very well. Decision should not be drawn out from your own reason or selfish ambition. Otherwise you will end with earthly unfruitful decision. It is good to think about own self but it is better to think about others; this is God oriented decision, not a self-oriented decision.
- 2) **Peace-loving** - the decision that comes from heavenly wisdom leads to a peace making resolution between different and opposing parties. Decision that is based on bitter envy in the heart against any person who is part of the issue, leads to disorder, quarrel, strife, wars, separation and division. The point is, whatever decision you make you cannot please or satisfy everyone. But practicing justice with respect even to the least will bring your peace.
- 3) **Considerate** - considering all the involved people who maybe affected or maybe influenced by your decision. Heavenly wisdom comes from God who loves and considers every human. God is compassionate and loving to every individual. Jesus died for all because God loves and thinks about the good of every people.
- 4) **Submissive - submit yourself to God.** (James 4:7) If you find your decision plainly against the word of God written in the Bible, your decision is clearly not the wisdom from heaven. God can never be against His written word. In this case it is advisable for you to refrain from such decision. You may even try to convince yourself that your decision is right by asking second opinion from others. But the only scale that you should follow is the word of God and not man’s own explanation and reasoning.

- 5) **Full of mercy** - having the same love and compassion of Jesus. The decision that is full of mercy will not come out over one night. It starts when you are rich and well-grown in the word of God, knowing His will, obeying His command and filled with the Holy Spirit that has really changed your personality and character, making you more kind and gentle toward all the people around you. With this you are changed to a humble person. And the more you are humble the more you are merciful. Humbleness is not counted when you are weak, but true humbleness appears when you are strong and have the authority but you are still full of mercy. In your decision you are not like a military leader who by zeal kills many and destroys cities and nation. You should be the same as Jesus; He is God, but He endures the shame of the cross for your sins. *“When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.” (1 Peter 2:23)* *“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” (1 Peter 2: 21-22)* This is the resemblance of true humility where mercy will be generated in the heart, and it will be the component of any decision you are taking, not for your benefit but for the benefit of others.
- 6) **Good fruit** - pondering about a decision, you sit with God and ask Him to show you what would be the outcome of that decision. If it gives good fruit well and fine, then go ahead. But if it generates hatred, discord, dissention, impurity, immorality, debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft, jealousy, fits with rage, selfish ambition, orgies and the like - refrain from that decision.
- 7) **Impartial** – not bias, not double minded, and never use two different scales in your decision-making. You should not show partiality between the poor and the rich, between the weak and the strong, those who are near and those who are far. If you are puzzled just ask yourself, “If God will handle this matter, what will He say and do about it?” By this you will know spontaneously the right decision that is hard to be taken. *“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as law-breakers.” (James 2:8-9)* *“The Lord detests differing weights, and dishonest scales do not please Him.” (Proverbs 20: 23)*
- 8) **Sincere** – do not take any decision lightly. Do not be in a hurry. Wait, think about it, pray and ask God to guide you. In the end, do not be ashamed to change whatever you have been decided if God reveals to you the new and rightful decision.

I do believe that the word of God is challenging every one of us. *“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” (James 3: 13-16)*

*My dear and beloved:* Consider at this point to think and meditate on what you read, that you may decide to be in the hands of the Lord as you pray: *“Father God, thank you that Jesus died for me on the cross to forgive any wrong decision I made. Cleanse me from selfish ambition and conceit. Help me Lord to always take the right decision in life. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.*