

*Since we are living by the
Spirit, let us follow the
Spirit's leading in every
part of our lives.*



Galatians 5:25

A Pattern for Making Decisions

With Bishop Ronald K. Powell

Key Verses:

PROVERBS 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death."

Galatians 5:25²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Psalm 25:12-13

12 What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Colossians 3:3-7

3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence(**the selfish human desire for an object, person, or experience**), and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.

The following steps will help you discern God's directions for you no matter what situation you're facing.

- **In order to hear the Lord's voice, you must remove all obstacles by: Confessing and repenting of sin.**
- Any sinful attitude or habit must be removed before you can proceed. Sin clouds the mind.
- Ask God if there's anything in your life that doesn't fit your identity as a follower of Christ. If He reveals a specific sin, immediately confess and repent of it.
- **Bringing your desires to the point of neutrality.**
- There will be times when what you want in a situation is not in line with what the Lord desires.
- The only way you'll receive His guidance is by submitting to Him.
- When you can honestly say that you desire His will be done more than your own, He'll give you clear

direction.

- **Exercise patience.**
- Some decisions are urgent-at least from a human perspective.
- However, demanding an immediate answer from God is a sign of distrust.
- Patience requires a willingness to trust the Lord and submit to His timing.
- Examine the situation from God's perspective and remember that those who wait for the Lord will not be ashamed.

PS. 25:3 Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

- **Be alert to pressure.**
- When seeking the Lord's direction, be careful not to let anyone or anything persuade you to choose a path other than God's.

Be cautious of:

- **External pressure.**
- Sometimes people don't understand why you're waiting, and they may offer advice or push you to make a decision. Instead of giving in and jumping ahead of God's will, fill your mind with His Word. That way, you'll be able to discern if the advice aligns with His desires.

- **Internal pressure.**
- Other times, the pressure to make a decision comes from within.
- Fear of losing an opportunity may cause you to enter into a situation or relationship instead of waiting for God's guidance.
- He may lead you to a decision nobody else will understand, but if you take the first step of obedience, His blessings will follow.

- **Persist in prayer.**
- Just because you don't receive an immediate answer from the Lord, it doesn't mean He isn't listening.
- The point of persistent prayer is not to force God to do what you want but to see the situation from His perspective.
- As you wait, He deepens your relationship with Him and deals with issues in your lives that are preventing you from growing spiritually.

[Philippians 1:6 New King James Version](#)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

- **Rest in God's promise.**
- In order to find out what the Lord wants you to do in a situation, you must believe His promises.
- He assures us He'll answer the prayers of those who ask, seek, and knock (**Matt. 7:7**), and if you'll faithfully read the Word each day, the Holy Spirit will lead you to passages with the guidance you need for any situation.

- **Wait for Christ's peace.**
- The last step in the decision-making process is to let the peace of Christ act as the "umpire" for your choice.
- [Col. 3:15](#) 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- **When the direction is from God, His peace will enter your heart and mind.**
- This is the final proof that you are following His path.
- There are no more doubts, just confident assurance.

III. Conclusion:

- When you're faced with decisions and don't know what to do, remember that God's Word is His primary method of speaking to His people.
- You can also receive guidance by humbly seeking the Lord in prayer and asking the Holy Spirit to help you apply Scriptural principles to your particular circumstance.
- When you patiently wait to hear His voice and heed His instructions, you can make a confident decision knowing that God has given you clear direction.

- **Let's Pray**