

Proverbs 2:1-7b

Step #1:

A. Gather Data and Seek Godly Counsel

Proverbs 12:15 “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.”

Proverbs 15:22 “Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”

“... I can say without a doubt that I make better decisions when I consult with my wife. I make better decisions with the elders rather than without them. I am wiser when I listen to my friends first. ... for most of our decisions we would do well to simply ask someone else, ‘What do you think?’ We spend all this time asking God, ‘What’s your will?’ When He’s probably thinking, ‘Make a friend, would you? Go talk to someone. There’s a reason I’ve redeemed a lot of you—because you do fewer dumb things when you talk to each other. Get some advice. You might just hear My voice.’” *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, pp. 94-96

Step #2:

B. Pray

- Pray for God to open your mind to show you any relevant Scripture or biblical principles that would apply to the decision you’re making
- Pray for wisdom – to make good decisions that’ll help you be more like Christ and bring Him glory
- Pray for an attitude of trust... faith... obedience... humility. Pray for things you already know are God’s will

Step #3:

C. Step Out in Faith – Trusting in God’s Sovereignty

I Don’t Know What to Do!

Finding and Following the Will of God

What’s the Simple Biblical Approach to Finding God’s Will?

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“The conventional approach to the will of God—where God’s will is like a corn maze with only one way out and lots of dead ends, or like a bull’s-eye with the center of God’s will in the middle and second best everywhere else, or like a Magic 8-Ball that we are supposed to shake around until some generic answer floats to the top—is not helpful. It is not good for our decision making. It is not good for our sanctification. And sometimes it is frankly dishonoring to Christ.” *Just Do Something*, Kevin DeYoung, p. 43

Two Most Important Practices

I. Form a Habit of Spiritual Conditioning in Your Life

“*Spiritual Conditioning*” - incorporating the spiritual basics into your life as a habit – completely apart from the help you want from God for making decisions.

A. Make Knowing Christ and Seeking First His Kingdom Your Top Priority

Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

- Do you have a sincere and pure devotion to Christ?
- Does your life... and every-day-walk have a simple passion and love for Christ that longs for Him and delights in Him?

B. Keep Renewing Your Mind with God’s Word as Your Ultimate Authority

God is after our transformation, so that we love what He loves, and we hate what He hates.

Romans 12:1-2 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

The Message

“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out...”

God urges us to:

- Offer ourselves to Him
- Turn away from the ways of the world
- Be transformed by the renewing of our minds

“God doesn’t tell us the future for this simple, yet profound reason: We become what we behold. God wants us to behold Him in His glory so that we can be transformed into His likeness (2 Corinthians 3:18). If God figured everything out for us, we wouldn’t need to focus on Him and learn to delight in His glory. God says, ‘I’m not giving you a crystal ball. I’m giving you My Word. Meditate on it; see Me in it; and become like Me.’”
Just Do Something, Kevin DeYoung, pp. 93-94

C. Keep Short Accounts with Sin – Making Repentance and Obedience Your Constant Activity

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

D. Make being Filled with the Holy Spirit Your Constant Reality

Ephesians 5:17-18 “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit”

- Greek – ‘be ye being filled with the spirit’ or ‘keep on being filled with the Spirit’

Galatians 5:16 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:25 “If we live in the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

“It seems clear enough that God leads and guides and instructs us in the way we should choose. The debate that has been conducted in evangelical circles has been over how God guides his people. How does he make his will known? How does he communicate the optimum path to take? There are two extremes to avoid. The first is the excess of the super-spiritual, for whom inner promptings, unusual providences, dreams, and voices apart from the Word become infallibly authoritative. A great deal of foolishness has been done in recent years in the name of what ‘God told me to do’ through one of these means. The other extreme to avoid is that of reducing guidance to nothing more than the application of Biblical principles. The Bible, in this view, becomes ‘blueprints’ for life, which can be read virtually without supernatural help... eliminating any meaningful, personal interaction or communication between God and His people.

Somewhere between these two positions lies the Biblical balance. God guides His people. He does so through His Spirit. Yet the Spirit does His work through sound principles.” *When Grace Comes Home*, Terry Johnson, p. 152

II. Follow Some Simple Steps of Wisdom

Proverbs 4:5-9 “Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendor.”