

**PRINCIPLES FOR MAKING GODLY DECISIONS**

2 CO 1:12; 7:9-11; TS 2:12

## INTRODUCTION

- A. A simple model for godly decision-making.
- B. Inputs – Examples: Study, Mistakes, History, Examples, Environment, Education, Analysis, Expert Advice.
- C. Conscience is based on good or bad “principles” and “guidelines.”
- D. Outputs – Godly Words and Deeds!
- E. Desire and Determination.
  - 1. Am I pleasing?
  - 2. Do I want to do better whatever it takes?
- F. Feedback from outputs is determined by inputs.
  - 1. What went right/wrong?
  - 2. What could be better?
  - 3. Why, Why, Why did this work or not?

## DISCUSSION

- I. PRINCIPLE #1 – KNOW THYSELF.
  - A. Examine all facets of our life in terms of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. [SWOT analysis +] – 2 CO 13:5.
  - B. Life is a balancing act [i.e. church, community, personal, work, family, government] – DA 5:27.
  - C. Remember – An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure – 1 PE 1:5-11.
  - D. Question: How can we know ourselves?
- II. PRINCIPLE #2 – KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING.
  - A. Know your future direction – 2 CO 4:16-18.
  - B. Decisions we make should be made with a view of the future. 2 PE 3:10-13.
  - C. Remember – Life is short and we will not live on earth forever – JA 4:14.
  - D. Question: How can knowing our future direction affect our decision-making?
- III. PRINCIPLE #3 – TRAIN YOUR CONSCIENCE.
  - A. A good conscience is based on God’s truth. What we put into our heart will come out. 1 TI 3:9; PH 4:8.
  - B. Our conscience is our “internal compass” – JN 8:9; 1 PE 3:16; Cf. 1 CO 10:25; 1 TI 4:2.
  - C. Remember – The Bible is not just a book of do’s and don’ts, but new principles need to be committed to “muscle memory” – HE 10:22; 9:14.
  - D. Question: How does our conscience work and how is it trained?
- IV. PRINCIPLE #4 – LEARN FROM MISTAKES.
  - A. We must learn to not repeat the same mistakes – Acts 8:21-24.
  - B. If we don’t learn from history, then we will be apt to repeat it – 1 CO 10:6, 11.
  - C. Remember – Provisions have been made when we do make mistakes. Be determined not to repeat the same mistakes – 1 JN 2:1; cf. GA 6:1-5; Acts 8:21-24.
  - D. Question: How can we learn from mistakes?
- V. PRINCIPLE #5 – BE DETERMINED AND DESIRE TO DO RIGHT.
  - A. Desire to please God in all things – HE 11:5-6.
  - B. We must feel starved for righteousness. We are expected to grow – MT 5:6; 1 PE 2:2.
  - C. Remember – The maturity process means to continually improve and relentlessly pursue excellence, which means doing right things, right the first time – HE 5:12-14; cf. LK 9:23.
  - D. Question: How does desire and determination affect our decision-making?

## CONCLUSION

- A. Know thyself and know where you are going.
- B. Train your conscience based on "principles" and "guidelines."
- C. Be desirous, willing, and determined to do right things right the first time.
- D. Godly words and deeds!
- E. Learn from mistakes.