

# HOW TO MAKE SOUND DECISIONS

## Take The Next Step – Part 3

### April 6, 2008

**Proverbs 2:5&9 (TLB)** *“If you want better insight and discernment... learn the **importance of reverence for the Lord and of trusting Him.**”*<sup>9</sup> *He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.”*

**KEY to Sound Decisions = \_\_\_\_\_ to God.**

### SIX WAYS TO TEST A DECISION

#### 1. THE IDEAL TEST:

**IS IT IN \_\_\_\_\_ WITH GOD’S WORD?**

**Psalms 119:105 (NIV)** *“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

**You don’t have to understand God’s principles to be blessed by them.**

#### 2. THE INTEGRITY TEST:

**WOULD I WANT EVERYONE TO \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)** *“The person of integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”*

**The test of integrity is that your public life and your private life need to match.**

**James 4:17 (TLB)** *“Remember, too, that **knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is sin.**”*

#### 3. THE IMPROVEMENT TEST:

**WILL IT MAKE ME A \_\_\_\_\_ PERSON?**

**1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV)** *“Everything is permissible--but **not everything is beneficial.** Everything is permissible--but **not everything is constructive.**”*

Our life is often a choice between  
what is good and what is best!

#### 4. THE INDEPENDENCE TEST;

COULD IT BECOME \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**1 Corinthians 6:12 (TLB)** *"I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but **some of these things aren't good for me.** Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think **they might get such a grip on me that I can't easily stop** when I want to."*

**When you get a grip on God's Word then God gets a grip on your heart and He becomes your priority!**

#### 5. THE INFLUENCE TEST:

WILL IT \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER PEOPLE?

**Romans 14:12-13 (TLB)** *"Yes, each of us will give an account of himself to God. <sup>13</sup> So don't criticize each other anymore. Try instead to **live in such a way that you will never make your brother stumble** by letting him see you doing something he thinks is wrong."*

**Everything you do has a direct or indirect affect upon somebody else!**

**Romans 15:1 (TLB)** *"Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for **we must bear the "burden" of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...**"*

#### 6. THE INVESTMENT TEST:

IS IT THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF MY LIFE?

**Ephesians 5:15-17 (NCV)** *"So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but **live wisely.**" <sup>16</sup> **Use every chance you have for doing good,** because these are evil times. <sup>17</sup> **So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do."***

**Time is more important in your life than money. You can always get more money... but you can't get more time.**