



**DECISION-MAKING  
BY THE BOOK**

TEACHING SEMINAR  
WITH PASTOR MATT CLAUSEN

**Workbook**

# Decision Making Seminar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher : Pastor Matt Clausen

Place : Friendship Church

## Notes

# Decision Making by the Book

## 11/14/2020

### What are our great desires as we make decisions?

We want to do God's \_\_\_\_\_.  
We want to \_\_\_\_\_ from God.  
We want to do what is \_\_\_\_\_.  
We want to do what is \_\_\_\_\_.

### We want to do God's Will!

God has \_\_\_\_\_ than one will.

*Acts 4:27-28 - for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*

God's \_\_\_\_\_ Will – God's plan for everything in the universe.

*Ephesians 1:11 - In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

*Psalms 136:19 - Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.*

*Isaiah 46:9b-10 - I am God, and there is none like me,  
declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'*

God's \_\_\_\_\_ Will – God's expressed desires for righteousness based on His character and found in His Word.

*1 John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.*

*Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

**God's Sovereign Will includes and even utilizes people's decisions that are against His Moral Will for His good \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Acts 2:22-23 - "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.*

*Genesis 50:20 - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*

### **God's Personal Will???**



- We shouldn't seek God's \_\_\_\_\_ will.
- We shouldn't seek God's \_\_\_\_\_ will.
- We should seek God's \_\_\_\_\_ will.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How have you thought about God's Will when it comes to your decision making?
2. How has God's Moral Will guided you in a recent decision?

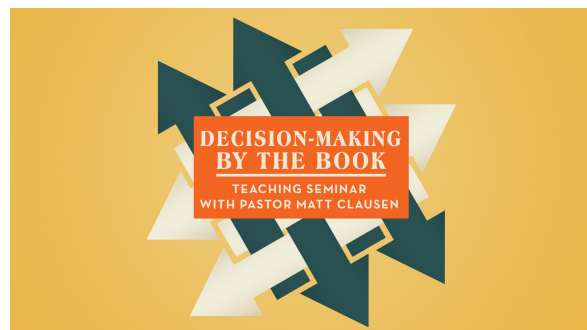
## We want to hear God's voice!

### Six bad pathways to hearing from God.

1. Playing \_\_\_\_\_ Roulette
2. Using Emotional Calm as \_\_\_\_\_
3. Using a \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Circumstances like Tea Leaves
5. Using Open Doors as \_\_\_\_\_
6. Elevating Inner Feelings to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

### Discussion Items

1. Why are these decision-making pathways appealing ways to try and hear from God?
2. We have all used one of the six pathways listed above to make decisions, which one have you used? How did you use it?



## Will God speak directly and miraculously to my decisions?

God can speak directly to your decisions, but it is \_\_\_\_\_.

### God speaks directly to people in Acts after Pentecost.

- God spoke through an angel to tell the disciples to leave jail and proclaim the gospel (Acts 5:19-20).
- An angel appears to Phillip and sends him to Gaza to proclaim the Gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-29).
- Jesus appears to Paul in a blinding light and speaks audibly to him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:4-6).
- In a vision the Lord instructs Ananias to visit Saul (Acts 9:10-16).
- In a vision an angel tells Cornelius to send for Peter (Acts 10:3-6).
- In a vision, The Holy Spirit tells Peter to visit Cornelius (Acts 10:19-20).
- An angel appears to Peter and orders him to follow him out of prison (Acts 12:7-8).
- The Holy Spirit speaks to all the leaders of the church at Antioch and sends out the first missionary team (Acts 13:2).
- Paul is directed through a vision to Macedonia to preach the gospel (Acts 16:9-10).
- Jesus appears in a vision to Paul to tell him to preach the Gospel in Corinth (Acts 18:9-10).
- Jesus appears to Paul in a vision to tell him to leave Jerusalem (Acts 22:18-22).



# Decision Making Seminar

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**Notes**





## Characteristics of God speaking directly into people's circumstances.

1. They didn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. They couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ it.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ it was God.
4. God was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. It was for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Discussion Passage

In Acts 15 the early church and the Apostles faced a huge decision about how to handle gentiles who are being saved. I want you to look at Acts 15:1-29 and focus on how they made their decision. Don't get hung up on what decision they made, focus on how they went about making the decision and how God spoke in the situation.



# How can we hear from God about every important decision?

## The Word of God

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

*Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

## The \_\_\_\_\_ uses the Word of God

*John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

*John 16:13-14 - When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

## How does the Holy Spirit use the Word of God to speak to us about our decisions?

What other Scriptures could apply to this decision?

## The Holy Spirit speaks through the Word of God when we \_\_\_\_\_ our life with it.

*Proverbs 2:1-6 - My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you,*

*<sup>2</sup>making your ear attentive to wisdom*

*and inclining your heart to understanding;*

*<sup>3</sup>yes, if you call out for insight*

*and raise your voice for understanding,*

*<sup>4</sup>if you seek it like silver*

*and search for it as for hidden treasures,*

*<sup>5</sup>then you will understand the fear of the LORD*

*and find the knowledge of God.*

*<sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom;*

*from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*



## **Discussion Questions**

1. What are key steps you can take to saturate your mind even more with the Word of God?
2. How does prayer work to help us hear from God's Word?

## We want to do what is right!

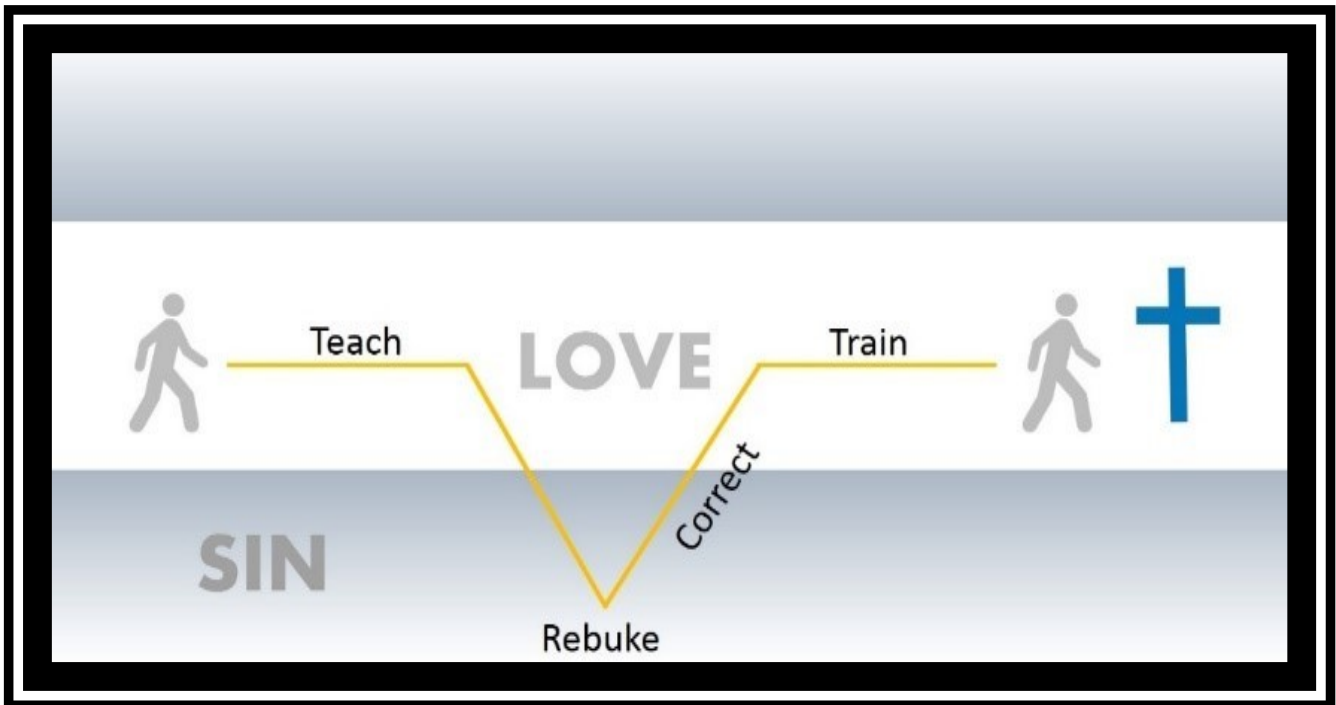
Make decisions according to God's \_\_\_\_\_.

*Matthew 22:36-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?"<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment.<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.<sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*



**How do prayer and the Holy Spirit work to help us make right decisions according to the commands of God?**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.*



Making right decisions means making decisions with right \_\_\_\_\_.



## **Motives Matter**

*Matthew 6:1 - "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven."*

*1 Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.*

*1 Thessalonians 2:3-4 - For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, <sup>4</sup>but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.*

## **How is prayer essential in judging our motives?**

## **What motives should direct our decision making?**

## **Discussion Passage**

Read Romans 14

- What are the specific matters of opinion that are addressed in this passage?
- What are some matters of opinion that these principles could apply to today?
- What are some of the principles related to how to make decisions about matters of "opinion" that we see in this chapter?
- What are ways these principles would get applied in the decisions that we have to make today?

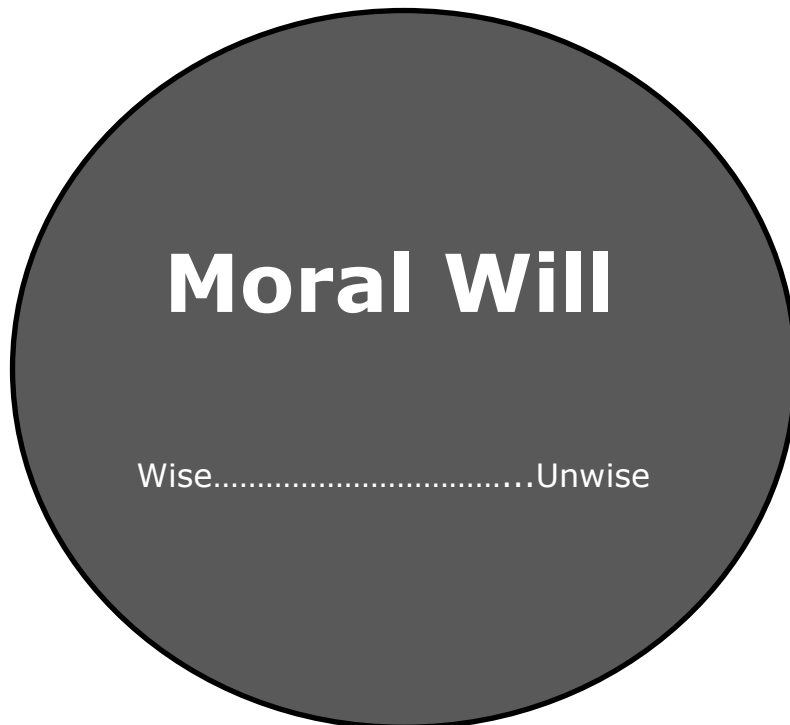
## **Discussion Questions**

1. What are the key motives in my heart in the decision that I face right now?
2. How does that inform my decision?

We want to make wise decisions!



We have \_\_\_\_\_ to make wise decisions within all that is right.



## **How can we make wiser decisions?**

- Consider
- Consult (Proverbs 11:14; 13:20; 15:32; 19:20)
- Courage

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Who is wise counsel that you can seek to speak truth and help you process decisions in your life?