

LESSON 3 FASTING FOR SPIRITUAL BREAKTHROUGH

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Just how does God speak to us?

God will speak to us-He is alpha and omega He knows the future, He knows our future. First, the Lord has already given us principles in His Word. You don't have to pray about marrying an unsaved person- it is already given to us in His word.

2 Cor. 6:14

Most of our decisions are not black and white. Life changing decisions will make you feel like it is twilight-certain dimness, neither fully bright nor dark.

God also speaks to us:

Directs us by counsel with friends

Prov 11:14

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Guides by His sovereignty

Rom 8:28

Directs us inwardly

Rom 8:14

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Acts 16:6-10

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

Directs by opportunities

1 Cor 16:9

9 For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Directs us when we have a yielded spirit

Rom 12:1-2

12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Through our spiritual gifts

1 Cor 7:7-8

7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

Through our common sense

Prov 16:9

9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps

Prov 16:9

9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Prayer and fasting.

Rules about making a decision

1. The wrong decision at the wrong time is disaster.
2. The wrong decision at the right time is a mistake.
3. The right decision at the wrong time is unacceptable
4. The right decision at the right time is success.

Life is centered around decision making- choosing a mate, quitting a job, where to live, the car we will drive, the friends we will have. We even choose our attitudes. Success in life comes with right choices.

WRONG CHOICES

Be aware of any factors in your life that has contributed to wrong choices in your past.

Wrong emotional perceptions lead to wrong choices

Tradition can cause wrong choices-“we’ve never done it that way before.”

Peer pressure can lead to wrong choices

Pride-make poor decisions to “save face”

We make good decisions on good information. Bad decisions on bad information. With no information, we make lucky decisions.

The act of decision making is choosing the best solution. Pray for strength, however answers will not always drop out of the blue. Sift through all of the facts. Then choose the best solution for you. Make a commitment to the decision, otherwise the decision will not work for you. Exercise your will, your emotions will follow. Your whole personality must be committed to make the decision work.-intellect, emotion, and will.

Acts 9:1-4

9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Make time to listen for Jesus voice

Listen for the Lord to speak to you.

Ps 46:10-11

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Rev 3:19-20

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Song of Solomon 5:2

2 ¶ I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

Ask and answer questions about yourself.

God will often ask us question, to make us see ourselves honestly.

Gen 3:6-10

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Acts 9:5

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Until we know who God is-we want know what to do. God will not show us an answer until we want to know Him. He want show us an answer until He shows us Himself. The answer is not within yourself.

Acts 9:6

6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Confession to the truth of who God was!

Recognize the objective truth.

Truth stands whether we agree with it or not. Fasting brings a willingness to accept God's truth instead of our own subjective musings. Sometimes we try to justify ourselves, which we get in our own way of seeing the truth.

Look at all the facts, understand the facts, don't be blinded by presuppositions.

Two problems in decision making; omniscient memories (we think we are always right because we remember being right before). Omniscient insights (we think we must be right because we thought of the answers).

Read the Bible, look into the heart of God-the more we do this, the more we realize what the truth is. We can lie to ourselves but truth remains truth. Truth is like a hot stove, always burns when we touch it.

Acts 9:8

8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

Stop all self-effort and yield to God.

Submit your spirit. Admit you were wrong.

Search with your whole heart.

Jer 29:11-13

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

We can be making decisions for money, self-glory or even sinful reasons. The longer we stay in His presence the more we discover devious motives in our hearts.

Allow the Lord to search you.

Jer 17:7-10

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you

John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Fasting connects us with the Holy Ghost. Enlighten us and inform us. You put the hard work in, apply yourself and God will help your studies. The spirit will help you recall what Jesus said. Give insight into the word of God.

Ps 119:18

18 Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Pray

Ps 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Obey what you learn

Prov 3:5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Be patient

Paul was given one instruction at a time. Arise go into the city... He was only given his next assignment. There he would get further orders. Revelation may come a little at a time.

Consecrating to God will put your pressing need to make a decision in slow-motion. No hurry when waiting on God.

Acts 9:9-12

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Be open to insights from others.

God can bring you answers through the life of someone else. A more mature person in God.

Acts 9:7

7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

Prepare to be misunderstood.

Only Paul saw Jesus. When you are seeking for instruction for your life changing decision, be ready for a lonely journey. Family may not understand, friends may not understand.