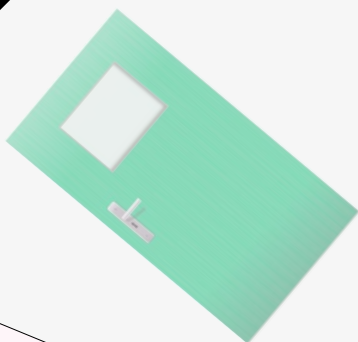
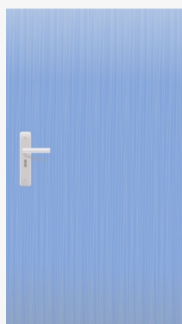
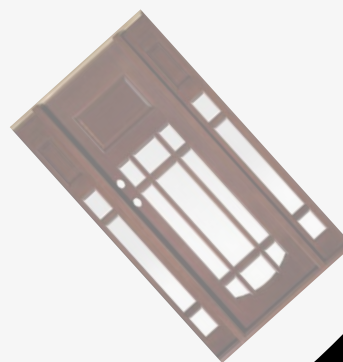
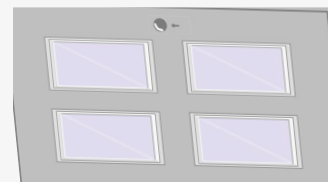


Principles for Biblical Decision Making



1. Belief

Have an accurate concept of God.

plans & purposes
"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."

Jer. 29:11

plans & purposes

Present or Distant?
Active or Silent?
Caring or Ambivalent?



2. Read

God's word is the foundation.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim. 3:16, 17



The Bible is God's word to you.

- 1. Teaching
- 2. Conviction
- 3. Reconciliation
- 4. Righteousness

Submit - You can be complete.

3. Pray

Pray for direction.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Col 2:3



4. Trust

Trust and have a surrendered heart.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is." Jer. 17:7

"Not my will, but thine be done." Luke 22:42

Surrender

Confidence, relies on, Security in

5. Wait

Wait on God's timing.

Look for, expect, hope
"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Is. 40:31

Change their strength for the better

Renewal

Faith-waiting

Faithless-waiting

Restlessness



F & W

Character (Heb 2:45): an intelligent attitude toward the experiences of the universe, basic notions of reverence in sensitivity and skills in the arts, moral conduct, and spiritual experience.

Learned Aids

6. Seek

Seek wise counsel.

"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand." Prov. 19:20-21

7. Walk

Walk with God.

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27

Learned Aids

The first thing involved in following Jesus is a cleaving to Him in believing trust and obedience; those cleaving to Him, also following His leading, acting according to His example.



8. Rest

Acknowledge God's sovereignty.

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom 8:28

Profitable, useful



1. Belief

Incorrect Assumption:
The choice is all important.
Truth - God views the decision making process as a critical catalyst for character formation.

8. Rest

Incorrect Assumption:
If I make the wrong choice, I will be on God's "B" plan.
Truth - In His sovereignty, God frequently redeems broken and bad decisions for His glory.

7. Walk

Incorrect Assumption:
Determining God's Will should be difficult.
Truth - Decisions are most "natural" when they come out of a walk with Christ.

6. Seek

Incorrect Assumption:
We either use faith or wisdom in decision making.
Truth - Good decision making uses both faith and wisdom.

5. Wait

Incorrect Assumption:
Waiting is doing nothing and has no benefit in the interim.
Truth - "Faith-waiting" is active and brings about renewal; "faithless-waiting" is inactive and brings about restlessness.

4. Trust

Incorrect Assumption:
I should have certainty of the decision before the choice is made.
Truth - Faith is trusting God through uncertainty.

3. Pray

Incorrect Assumption:
God would answer your prayers according to your desires if you had more faith.
Truth - God uses "no" for His purposes. Sometimes He changes our questions.

2. Read

Incorrect Assumption:
There are many options but only ONE right choice. It is my job to decide on the ONE and thus solve the riddle.
Truth - God's Word defines the boundaries from which we choose.