

Simple Not Easy

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10X²

Text: James 1:5-8

It is estimated that we make around **35,000** decisions every day. Some are small and are of little consequence and some carry a great deal of significance. Those who are 10X understand that to succeed in life we must pray for **wisdom** and then make a decision. The ability to be decisive is essential. Remember decisive does not always equal immediate.

If we do not make our own decisions, then people will make them for us. Many people are afraid to make decisions. Those who are 10X are not only comfortable with making decisions they have gotten good at it. They also understand that if they get it wrong, they have learned a lesson for the next time.

The goal of good decision making is to develop spiritual **stamina** so that when a problem occurs, we don't freeze or react out of emotion but **respond** out of wisdom. There are many times we are tempted to blame things on the devil, sometimes it's not the devil, it's the decision.

One of the great keys of dealing with people is to **communicate** in triplicate. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate.

- Communicate with **God** - ask for wisdom.
- Communicate with those who **need** to know the decision you have made.
- Communicate with those who **should** know because you care and it keeps them in the know.

Signs that you are making a poor/bad decision.

1. You do not **pray** for God's leading.
2. You do not **consult** the Word of God.
3. You **avoid** input from people that you respect. There is safety in the multitude of counselors.
Proverbs 13:20, Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 12:15
4. It does not build you up **spiritually**.
5. It **undermines** your integrity. Compromise that violates God's ways is never a good idea no matter who it makes happy.
6. It leads you into **temptation**.

There are several truths about making decisions that we can learn from James.

James 1:5- If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- All of us experience wisdom lacking moments in life. A lack of wisdom for a moment is not the same as being unable to receive the wisdom that we need.
- In order to receive the wisdom of Heaven we have been given a directive to ask. Prayer puts us in the posture to hear, and His written Word gives us the source we need for making God honoring decisions.
- We must know that God is generous when it comes to dispensing His wisdom to us. (NIV) **who gives generously to all without finding fault**, Notice God doesn't blame us for not knowing what or how to do something. He rewards us with the answer precisely because we are willing to admit that we need help.
- Those who are 10X understand that receiving the information needed to make correct decisions is an act of faith. They trust God and do not second guess God. They do not waver between the ideas of the world and the ways of God. They trust God.

To make a good decision we must make an informed decision. That means that we must do our homework. Get the root of any problem. Clarify what it is you want to resolve and the outcome that you and God desire. Then calculate what it will take to get it done. **Luke 14:28-30**

Hope is not a strategy unless your hope is in the Lord. We must have a plan. Failing to plan is planning to fail.

Those who have learned to make good decisions have learned to pay attention to the nudging of the Holy Spirit. **John 16:13, Acts 15:28** There is nothing like the intuition of the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Part of making the right decision is making it at the correct time. Timing is just as important as the decision that is made.

Three enemies of excellent decision making.

- 1) When we are overwhelmed
Making 35,000 decisions a day can get overwhelming. Many people get decision fatigue. In a world filled with so many choices is it any wonder people question if they are making the correct choice.

~ A study discovered that – Individuals experiencing decision fatigue demonstrate an impaired ability to make trade-offs, they prefer a passive role in the decision-making process and often make choices that seem impulsive or irrational.

This makes going to God all the more **important**. **Philippians 4:6-7**

2) When we are **afraid**
Fear can make us either impulsive or paralyzed. Some call it analysis paralysis, others call it **over** thinking. Remember that indecision is a decision. **2 Timothy 1:7**

3) When we are **emotional**
Too often we allow emotion to overrule **logic** and the Word. Part of being 10X is having the emotional intelligence to recognize how we are feeling and the emotional maturity to refuse to allow that to be the single factor in how we make a decision.

~ Stress: The confusion created when one's maturity and wisdom overrides the body's basic desire to choke the living daylights out of some jerk who desperately deserves it.

Emotions leave out the ramifications and **consequences** of a decision. What feels good right now may not **be** good beyond the moment. Never allow emotions to win the day. Those who are 10X can feel things deeply without allowing what they feel to defeat them by what they do and speak.

Those who are 10X never allow an emotional **meltdown** to lead to spiritual disobedience. Remember Moses moment of anger cost Him the promised land. David and Sampsons lust cost them personally and relationally. Judas greed cost him his salvation and his place of distinction among the 12.

Those who make good decisions understand the power of **silence**. They do not waste advice on those who will not receive it. They will not cast their pearls before swine.

They realize that silence is better than unnecessary **drama**. They realize that everything that they know does not need to be said.

Those who are 10X have learned to speak with each person they are with **appropriately**. **1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NLT)** This is called **relational** intelligence.

When it comes to life and decisions those who are 10X realize that the only easy day was **yesterday**. Take one day at a time, refuse to worry about tomorrow. **Matthew 6:34**

Those who are 10 X choose to bring energy and **enthusiasm** every single day. They don't run from problems, they see something, they pray about it and then they do something.

They learn to take the **initiative** when God says to move. They don't wait for others to do something hoping things will get done. They either delegate or do it themselves.