

Decision Making Outline

1. Introduction

2. Word of God

- a) Need to be in the _____ and _____.

Jonah 1:1-4, Dan 6:10, Matt 26:36-46

- b) Consider two-a-days.

- c) Meditation time

- d) God's promises will _____ you to his will.

James 4:3, Romans 8:28,29, Matt 6:10, John 7:16,17

3. Witness of the Spirit

- a) God's will for us to have _____.

Col 3:15-17

- b) Ask help in prayer.

- c) Ask God for specific _____.

- d) Write a pro/con list.

4. World of Circumstances

- a) These will vary depending on person/situation.

5. Epilogue

Decision Making

Intro: We make decisions every day—some of little consequence, some with greater consequence. Besides family issues, perhaps job changes are most traumatic for a guy. I have joked with several of my friends that this may be the last time I want to be involved in a seminar like this in that I don't know if I want God to give me any more material!

Synopsis: Last May my company's department that I have been involved with for 23 years downsized to just two folks. I was told that I could continue to work there indefinitely, but the project that I would be most involved in would be in Kenya, Africa. After some prayer and council I decided that I should at least check it out. I based the following decision process on the following three principles:

1. Word of God
2. Witness of the Spirit.
3. World of Circumstances

(By the way this outline is not mine but my Father-in-Laws.)

Word of God

A. To start the decision process we need to be in the word and prayer. If not, don't make the decision.

Biblical examples of being in the word:

1. Bad Example. Jonah.
2. Good Example. Daniel. Prayed 3 times a day.
3. Best Example. Christ in the garden.

B. Consider two-a-days. My boys that do sports are too slight for football, but they run and play BB. Example of Dyl running hills on Saturday to get a leg up. on competitors for the season.

C. Meditation time. After time in word, need a break to let information sink in—let the pieces fit together—hard exercise, walk the dog, lift, mow yard, play BB, throw ball with kids, play piano (my oldest son does this)--whatever you need to do to relax and think.

D. God's promises that point to giving us his will:

1. James 4:3
2. Romans 8: 28, 29
3. Matt 6:10
4. John 7: 16,17

Witness of the Spirit

A. It is God's will for us to feel his peace about a situation. Col 3:15 If you are like me the decision sometimes can feel overwhelming.

B. Ask spouse/buddy/kids to pray with you and for you.

C. Ask God for a specific verse/promise. (My mom is especially good at this.) In my case I felt like Ps 139:1-8 was for me. Things I got out of this:

1. Hedge. Example of what gorse is. Not to know too much ahead or behind of what God

wants us to do.

2. From vs. 6 “depths of the sea”. Lake Victoria, Kenya is pretty far away! But God was with me. I went to Africa but my attitude was horrible—I was having a pity party but God was still with me. Example of: Nato, (going into town) Enos (praying before official's meeting) , and Awana guy from Russia (being gone from home 6 weeks to plant Awana groups in Russia). I felt chastened by not relying on what God's will was for me so far from home.

- D. Sounds basic, but write a pro/con list. Writing it down solidifies your thoughts. Make it specific and real. (Show mine—both financial and philosophical.)

World of Circumstances

A. After going to Africa I felt some positives about the project, but I just felt that it wouldn't be fair on my family so I put out some 'fleeces' to see if I was still on track.

1. Farm Manager would be -ive. (Did not respond to my questions.)
2. Owner Would be -ive. (Looked at draining the swamp would be to simplistic.)
3. \$ would be -ive. (Wanted me to sacrifice more, take away company car, not give me more comp time for overseas work or time with my family.)

B. At this point I felt the peace to leave, after 23 years involvement with the company.

C. Final confirmation. Interview experience with other company that was at Jay Young's funeral 10 years earlier.

Epilogue

A. It has been a humbling experience to change jobs. Learning new systems, having to do the mundane work myself has put me down a peg.

B. Is this present company the end all. No. I will continue to struggle, have jobs with problems, issues with employers, subs, vender's, owners, inspectors, co-workers.

C. I feel that the Lord has already rewarded our family with his blessings—I say these not to brag on my kids but to say that with both parents involvement they have experienced good things. Oldest boy was lead in High School play, middle boy won two races in X-Country season—he was 4-2 against his nemesis from the prior season, little boy's flag football team won it's section in the fall.

Africa Decision Process, Sept. 15th 2005

Pro

Con

The Work

- a. The farm does make a difference to the local people.
- b. New and exciting project with something very different.
- c. Can I make a difference to the people involved?
 1. Grahame (farm manager). He would say yes: although it's harits mind about the project or I am terminated?
read the British persona.
 2. Calvin (owner). He would say yes.
 3. Jim (my boss). He would say I big yes and that it is critical to the success of the project.

My Family

- a. Could take one or more family members w/ me in the summer as interns. Maturation and college resume. Drew could upgrade/troubleshoot farm computers and/or possibly teaching computer skills in local secondary schools for farm PR. Dylan--begin to understand engineering.
- b. Positive for ministry to local people and foreman. Felt more positive about the project after going. Nato experince and AWANA leader on plane.

Compensation

- a. Bonus amount asked for: ?? Farm milestones accomplished before reward:
 - (1) 14,000 acres drained and useable for farming.
 - (2) Fish farm infrastructure complete (including processing plant?)
- b. Next ten years of our family's life is most-expensive as kids have college and leave home.

The Work

- a. Farm is sold or taken back by government before time frame. What happens?
- b. What happens if Company decides it can't/won't continue project? Out of mon
- c. What protection, short of an employee agreement, do I have if Company chang
of me being involved?
- d. Being so far away, they (Graham) will likely make decisions b/f I have time to react. If they make the decision anyway, what is the point in
- e. What if company refocuses its obejctives midstream to take on other milestone take longer or are more-risky?
- f. I have no control if the farm makes money or not.
- g. Will likely have to wait until farm is profitable. If? >10 years

My Family

- a. Huge -ive being gone from home 8-12 weeks a year during critical time of boys teenage years.

Compensation

- a. Timing: 5 years (Dec. 2010)
- b. One large bonus at end-of-work vilates Prov. 21:5
- c. Company wants me to 'sacrifice'. Reduce current benefits.
- d. Reducing wages, benefits now reduces my chances of getting those items if I r another company.
 - (1) Eliminate company vehicle (used 2004 Nissan Ultima would run about \$8,000/year)
 - (2) Company asked for me to buy back existing 1998 Jeep Cherokee for current n value (~\$4000)
 - (2) Would not pay for security system for residence (family is insecure when I'm a Cost is about \$1500.
 - (3) Would not get extra time off for weekend travel (comp. time)
 - (4) Reduce wages to pre-July 2005 cost of living raise level and freeze for 5 years Assume cost of living raises average 3% (About \$14,000 over 5 years)

Work Ideas--Key Men's 2005 seminar

<u>Subject/Ideal</u>	<u>References</u>	<u>Examples</u>
1. Changing the seemingly impossible.	Daniel 2. King Neb gave an impossible task. Tell the dream and the interpretation w/out knowing what it is! Daniel strategy was to pray and get his accountability buddies in on it.	1. Leaving Cleveland. Phone call on Friday afternoon. 2. Changing Marshals mind. Job shutdown--then conference call backing down and saying they would pay for it! 1st FI Marshal Remodel 3. Remember answers to prayer in past. Alb FM and handrail.
2. Be Satisfied.	Ecc 11:7 Ecc 12:13	1. Play w/ kids 2. Enjoy run/golf etc 3. Job is just a job
3. Good Name.	Ecc 7:1	1. Example of Prime Electric. City council scolding.
4. Honesty	Prov 11:1,3; 16:11 Acts 5:1-7 Anninis and Safari	1. Fire Line in Cleveland. Guy died of brain tumor 5 yrs latter.
5. Death of a Co-worker. Tragedy in the Workplace.	Jn 11ff Jesus and Lazarus. Jesus Wept. Show your emotions. Opportunity to witness.	1. Example of Jay Young 2. Widow asked me to give eulogy. 3. Example of new employer remembered my testimony 10 years latter!
6. Work Hard	Ecc 9:10,11 Prov 21: 5 Steady Plodding I Cor 9:24-27	We all have examples of this.
7. Work is Hard	Ecc 9:9, 10, 11; Ecc11:4 Gen 3:17-19 Work is man's curse.	1. Example of VA. Often for a season.
8. Witness at Work	Gen 39:2 Lord was w/ Joseph Dan 1;2 slave to CFO	1. Travel w/ subs. 2. Guy break down in my office--can I pray for you? Or over phone-- Passion of X movie w/ carpet sub in SA. 3. Verse or two on your desk. Example of:

		<p>A. Owner Prov 21:5</p> <p>B. Isaiah 45:3 Print</p> <p>"I will give you treasure..."</p> <p>C. I Cor 9:24ff--running shadow box.</p> <p>4. Example of going to Kenya Nato, Enos and AWANA rep.</p>
9. Pray for your Boss	Ephesians 6:5-8	<p>1. Example of New York Investors.</p> <p>2. Michael--even though he was bad. "Jew them down, ok if you don't use Lord's name in vain."</p>
10. Lessons Learned File	<p>Prov 3:21; 19:8</p> <p>1. Discipline to write it down.</p> <p>A. Answered prayer. Phil 4:6</p> <p>B. Don't repeat same mistakes.</p> <p>C. Help in decision making.</p>	<p>1. Read some examples. I review every 6 months or so. Keeps me humble.</p>
11. When I screw up.	Ecc 9:11	<p>1. Example of the Muskogee bid--75k</p> <p>Don't beat yrself up. Pray and move on.</p>
12. Creating wealth	<p>Prov 21:5</p> <p>Prov 13:11</p> <p>Borrower is servant to the lender</p>	<p>1. GSA Buildings. When strayed he</p> <p>A. Gave others control. New York/ Pig Farm.</p> <p>B. Something not the core of what we know how to do.</p> <p>C. Kenya Farm</p>
13. Double Cross (Wages not fair)	Ps 55:11-14	<p>1. Coming back from VA found out boss was deliberately keeping my wages low.</p> <p>2. Vender comes to owner and badmouths me.</p>
14. Prayer	Luke 22:39ff	<p>1. Last 10 minutes of each hour while on road.</p> <p>2. Once a month w/ family (bring example).</p> <p>3. Ask wife/mentor to pray for you at especially tough time.</p>
15. Mentor (authority figure)	Prov 27:17 Iron sharpens Iron	<p>1. Example of Jim-- (good example)</p>

(could by non-Xian)	<p>11Kings 2:9 Elisha and Elijah Prov 13:10 I Kings 3:5-15 Solomon asks for Wisdom Matt 26:39 X puts himself under God's authority</p> <p>This authority idea crosses over into the family as well. I practice the same things I expect from my teenage sons.</p>	<p>it sounds opposite (of today's culture) but it's a Godly principle to be under other's authority. I have gotten more kudos, pay and at-a-boys since VA by being under Jim's authority. Practically: A. Expense Reports. B. Let him know where I am (out of town). C. Let him read contracts b/f signing etc. D. Buffer b/t me and owner. 2. Bad Example Dale--did not do A, B or C.</p>
16. Temptation	<p>Joseph Gen 39:6b-20 Prov 4:14.15</p>	<p>1. Eating lunch w/ VWC Lady. Asked for forgiveness from wife. 2. Poorly dressed lady at work</p>
17. When a project goes bad	<p>Matt 5:45 Rain falls on the just and the unjust</p> <p>Time seems to lessen the impact of these problems.</p>	<p>1. Example of Larry not going to WAPA--cost him his job. Ironically interest rates dropped and it's the second best building he has. 2. Cotulla--some jobs just stay bad. Not your fault but your responsibility. 3. FFC--bowling equipment.</p>
18. Boss asks to Cheat/Lie/Steal/Immoral	<p>Dan 1:8ff I Kings 19:1,2 Jezebel I Sam 2:12 Eli's sons--some people are evil.</p>	<p>1. Example of Piers at Krause. A. Get immediate supervisor off of the hook. B. Often makes good business sense not to do it. Show dollar and cent justification.</p>
19. Discouragement	<p>I Kings 19:18--Elijah. 7,000 haven't bent the knee II Kings 6:15-17 Let them see</p>	<p>1. Natural human emotion 2. Talk out w/ friendly ears (not gossip).</p>
20. Partnerships	<p>II Cor 6:14-17 Not equally yoked Romans 13:8 Prov 22:7 Jam 4:13 Prov 22:26-27 Don't cosign the loan.</p>	<p>1. Bad Example. Asked to join Carey. What David said, "You make choices". 2. Good Example. X-ian brother asked to go into business but I felt the timing wasn't right. Co-worker was killed 3 months later. 3. Example of New York investors.</p>

WAPA mason over budget.
 Fire Sprinkler man under budget.
 4. Recent example of real estate investor.

21. Loose your witness	Luke 22:54-62 Peter denied X Ps 51--David's confession	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask forgiveness of one you have wronged. 2. Bible is full of examples of folks that messed up big and went on. 3. Example of Tulsa roofer and bookkeeper.
22. God's will Making Decisions	<p>James 4:3--God's will Romans 8:28,29 Matt 6:10 your will be done Jn 7:16,17</p> <p>There are all types of decisions. Take longer on the major ones.</p> <p>Take a time out on the day to day ones. Exercise, read a book, walk the dog--meditate. Christ took time out to pray--in garden b/f his ministry decisions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be in word and pray. If not, don't make the decision--delay. 2. Ask God to shut door and for protection. 3. God can use our bad decisions for his glory. Example of going to Cleveland. Help in church, wife grandfather dieing. 4. Drew example of advertising in community play for job. 5. What do you feel peace about? Col 3:15. 6. What to do with conflicting information?
23. Turmoil	<p>Psalms 139:1-6</p> <p>Consider 2 a days for quite time just like sports.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Company downsizing. Asked to go to Kenya. Time away from family. Asked to finish up others work. Told customers we were not interested in their work. Subs ignored us because we were stopping our work. 2. List of pro's and con's. 3. Got to witness in job interview