



TOPIC Keys to Making Decisions

SPEAKER Ps Nicky Raiborde

THEME Pillars of a Healthy Church

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

GOD WANTS TO GUIDE, BUT LETS US DECIDE

God's word constantly reminds us of how much God wants us to turn to Him so that He might guide us, that He might guide us along unfamiliar paths and make the rough places smooth (Isa 42:16), that He might walk ahead of us as we listen to His voice and follow Him (Jn 10:3-4). In this way, He watches over us and advises us as He guides us along the best pathway for our lives (Ps 32:8).

What can we do to ensure that we are listening to God as we make key decisions in our lives?

Ps Nicky Raiborde shares with us a simple 10 point checklist that he works through every time he needs to make an important decision in his life.

KEYS TO MAKING DECISIONS

1. CHECK YOUR PRIDE ELEMENT

Firstly, let us ensure that we are truly seeking God's guidance in our decision-making, and not calling on God to endorse a decision that we have already made. The bible is clear about how God leads the humble (Ps 25:9), and how He chooses to make His ways known to humble men (Num 12:3). Yet perhaps the strongest reminder to be humble is the knowledge that if we should stubbornly ask God for what we want instead of humbly seeking His counsel, then God might well give us what we want, to our own detriment, just as He did when the Israelites asked Him for a king (1 Sam 8).

2. POSTURE YOURSELF THROUGH WORSHIP

When we have humbled ourselves before Him, ready to seek His counsel, let us then focus on Him. Let us give Him the full attention of our minds and the full affection of our hearts. Let us kneel before Him in worship, acknowledging Him for who He truly is; our Creator, Saviour, Lord, and Master.

3. PLANT A FINANCIAL SACRIFICIAL SEED

As we worship Him for who He is, let us also prepare to offer up to Him a financial sacrificial seed. A sacrifice of something precious, scarce and of great value to us, as we invite His presence to be among us.

4. PRAY IN THE SPIRIT AND ASK FOR INTERPRETATION

As we invite His presence to be among us through sacrifice and offering, allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in prayer. Ask for His interpretation of the words that have been given to us, through speaking in tongues, as we pray in the Spirit.

5. ADD FASTING

As we pray regarding decisions in life, we are reminded that fasting is an effective way for us to be able to hear from God and follow the direction He wants us to go in. (Ezra 8:21-23).

6. CONSIDER THE WARNING SIGNS

Even as we posture ourselves before God, let us be sensitive to the different ways in which the Holy Spirit can speak to us and be prepared to heed the warning signs that the Spirit might give through various different avenues (Prov 10:17).

7. CONSIDER THE COUNSEL OF YOUR COMMUNITY

One of the ways in which the Spirit could warn and instruct us would be through the counsel of godly members in our community (Prov 11:14). The counsel of godly people whom God has placed in our lives can go a long way in helping us make decisions that honour God.

8. ENSURE IT ALIGNS WITH YOUR FAITH CONVICTIONS

Another warning sign that we should be careful of is when the decision we are about to make might seem to conflict with our value system (Prov 10:9). As Christians, we would all have certain faith convictions that God has placed through His word, in our hearts. We should be careful that our actions and decisions do not misalign with these convictions.

9. DO NOT BE PRESSURED BY TIME

It is important to wait on God's timing and not be hasty in our decisions (Prov 21:5), but to work diligently to listen carefully to His guidance and respond obediently to His prompting.

10. CONSIDER HOW TO MANAGE THE TRANSITION OF CHANGE

Finally, many decisions might have a certain amount of impact, not only on ourselves, but also on those close to us. Whether it be family, friends, colleagues at work or in our ministries, it is imperative that we also consider the circumstances of others as we lead them in this change. Often, it is not the change itself that is the problem, but the transition and how it is managed. Plan for change, give it time, include others in your planning so that all might work together for the glory of God.

Conclusion

God has always been clear that He wants the best for us, and that He would love to guide us to what He wants for us if only we would listen to His voice. These 10 pointers help us to prepare ourselves to listen to God's leading and align our decisions and actions according to His will. Let us posture ourselves to submit our whole lives as a living sacrifice to our God as we listen to His guidance in all aspects of our lives.

QUESTIONS

1. Share some of the times that you have relied on God's guidance for a decision in your life and how God came through for you.

2. Out of the 10 pointers given, is there anything new that you would want to incorporate into your decision making process? What is it and how would you put it into action?

3. What is one key decision that you are required to make at this stage in your life? How can the other members help and pray for you?