

**LEARNING TO MAKE WISE CHOICES**

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.* **Ephesians 4:1**

*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.* **Ephesians 5:15**

**1. Why do we need WISDOM?**

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* **John 10:10**

- a. **We don't plan to MESS UP our lives but we don't have a plan not to.**
- b. **We don't KNOW what we don't KNOW.**
- c. **Today's unwise choices create the reality I live in TOMORROW.**
- d. **Our unwise PRIVATE choices have PUBLIC and far reaching results.**
- e. **Our unwise choices lead to a life of REGRET and crisis management instead of fulfillment and meaning.**
- f. **Our unwise choices can follow us into ETERNITY.**

**2. How do we GAIN the wisdom we need?**

- a. **We seek the SOURCE of wisdom.**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* **Proverbs 9:10**

- i. Wisdom is God's perspective on my situation.
- ii. Wisdom is a *who* not a *what*.

- b. **We use the wisdom He gives us as LENS for making decisions.**

- c. **We DEVELOP wisdom seeking habits and skills.**

*If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.* **James 1:5**

- i. Habit #1: Continuously ask God for wisdom.
- ii. Habit #2: Carefully ask yourself this question.
  - 1. What is the wise thing for me to do in light of my past experience?
  - 2. What is the wise thing for me to do in light of my current circumstances?
  - 3. What is the wise thing for me to do in light of my future hopes and dreams?

**3. What happens when I walk in STEP with the GIVER of wisdom?**

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. 7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine... 13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, 14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. 15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed. 19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; 20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. 21 My son, do not lose sight of these – keep sound wisdom and discretion, 22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. 23 Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. 24 If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.*

**Proverbs 3:5**