

# ***Wise Decision Making***

*By Phil Sovdi*

**How do we know that we are being led by Holy Spirit and hearing His voice?**

## **A) God's Word - Three Grids**

### **1) A grid of Thinking: How are you doing in your thought life?**

*"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8, NIV)*

True?  
Noble?  
Right?  
Pure?  
Admirable?  
Excellent?  
Praiseworthy?

Are these the guidelines that rule your thinking? They can.

### **2) A grid of Accepting: How are you doing with what you believe?**

*But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. (James 3:17, NIV)*

First Pure?  
Peace-loving?  
Considerate?  
Submissive?  
Full of Mercy?  
Good fruit?  
Impartial?  
Sincere?

If your thoughts do not exercise these fruits, the chances are good that it is not wisdom being given or communicated.

This is what wisdom looks like. It is how it presents. Wisdom carries these eight qualities. They present in attitude and awareness when they are in use.

So, when someone feels like they need to inform you or bring you up to speed about life and the way it works, run their comments through this grid.

Is the person who is trying to communicate with me considerate, impartial, pure? If you take the time to filter through this list, you will save yourself all kinds of trouble or hurt.

If you are giving me wisdom in your communication, it will bring life to me even though it may hurt for the moment. Conversely, if it is not wisdom, it will bring harm that could last a long time.

**3) A grid of Doing: How are you in your attitude or response to another person? Are you giving love? Are you receiving love?**

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails...”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, NIV)

Are you able to display these qualifiers of what love looks like in a relationship? Are you receiving these from others? These qualifiers become a great way of measuring the love in the relationship.

Out of these sixteen qualifiers, how many do you exhibit? On a scale of one to ten with each one, where do you find yourself? Of course, we can do better.

I may be a four in patience, but a nine on Rejoicing in the truth, I can get better in both.

Patient?

Kind?

Does not envy?

Does not boast?

Not Proud?

No Dishonor?

Not Self-seeking?

Not Easily Angered?

Keeps no record of wrongs?

No delight in Evil?

Rejoices with the truth?

Always protects?

Always trusts?

Always hopes?

Always perseveres?

Never Fails?

**B) Listen to, and consider the counsel of a brother or a sister who are in a godly relationship with you:**

### **Discipleship and Mentoring**

You need both inflow and an outlet to be fresh and healthy in your psychological world. Just like a body of water, if there is no fresh input and no outflow release you will become stale and stagnant. Your 'water' instead of refreshing will make others sick.

**C) Does your next step violate or hurt anyone?**

If your freedom causes you to step on someone else it's probably not freedom, but more likely, insensitivity. Too often people that have 'heard from God' make their 'freedom' someone else's responsibility. It's like, "I'm called to make this incredible, elaborate dinner, but you get to clean up all the mess and do all the dishes." I believe that God's directive would make the person being directed careful toward others and wanting to be kind, loving and all the other characteristics mentioned above. This would go a long way to convince others and me of a divine leading.

**D) Does it make sense, does it line up with where things should be?**

A reasonable criterion is simple, common sense. Often when it comes to spiritual things, people forget about common sense. I remember what a mentor told me many years ago. He said, "We are natural, God is supernatural," in other words, he is more natural than we are. If we are always looking for the mystique and the bizarre, we may not be looking for God.

Because of who God is; Because of how he wants to lead your life; Because of how he desires to communicate with you; he will speak so you can hear. God speaks your language. Not just an English, French, or ethnicity, but the way you think and the way that you hear. When you are sincere and seeking after God's will, direction, and leading for your life, he will speak in your language; you will hear him in your thoughts.

### **How to Use this Tool:**

Wisdom acquisition is a lifelong quest. We don't transform from folly to wisdom overnight. But, we can get on the path, and we can do that today.

Begin with prayer. "Father you said if any lacks wisdom to ask for it. Right now, I need wisdom. Help me to take my view of things and run it through the counsel of your word. Help me to see from your perspective right now. Help me to apply your counsel to my life right now. As I am one on one with you will you change me? Will you change me from the inside out so that I will pause and consider your thoughts for each decision I have to make? I ask this in Jesus name amen."