

GoDeeper



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

Don't Feed The Monster | Part 4| Pastor Steve Wells |10.25.2020
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB) “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

This morning, Pastor Steve spoke about the paths we take throughout our lives. Sometimes we come across a path we know is not good for us and we stay away from that particular path. Othertimes, we know a path is not good for us but we continue to stay on the path or try it again. We need to learn to recognize the path Satan wants us to take and how to stay away from it and find the path God wants for our lives.

1. What Biblical Principles Should Inform My Decision?

- **Proverbs 2:6** For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.
- **1 Corinthians 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
- **2 Corinthians 6:14** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?
- **Proverbs 22:7** The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave.
- **Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Questions to Ask

1. What does the Bible have to say about this decision?
2. Who can help me better understand what God's Word says about this decision?
3. Make sure you are not the only one who holds to your interpretation.

2. Do I Have All The Facts?

- **Proverbs 18:13** He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.
- **Proverbs 18:17** The first to plead his case seems right, until another comes and examines him.

Questions to Ask

1. Ask a lot of questions.
2. Don't fall prey to "wishful thinking" or let your emotions get the best of you.
3. Remember that there are two sides to every story.

3. Is The Pressure of Time Forcing Me to Make a Premature Decision?

- **Proverbs 19:2** Also it is not good for a person to be without knowledge, and he who makes haste with his feet errs.
- **Proverbs 21:5** The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, but everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty.

Questions to Ask

1. Beware of the "once in a lifetime" deal and the lure of instant gratification.
2. Don't let the fear of missing out drive your decision.
3. When in doubt, leave it out.

4. What Possible Motives Are Driving My Decision?

- **Proverbs 16:2** All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives.
- **Proverbs 20:9** Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin"?

Questions to Ask

1. Acknowledge that you have "blind spots."
2. Honestly assess your motives, both good and bad.
3. Give others permission to speak into your life.

5. How Should Past Experiences Inform My Decision?

- **Proverbs 26:11** Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.
- **Proverbs 17:10** A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

Questions to Ask

1. Look for patterns of behavior – “triggers.”
2. Understand how your family background might affect your thinking.
3. Learn from your mistakes!

6. What Is The Collective Counsel of My Community?

- **Proverbs 11:14** Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is victory.
- **Proverbs 18:1** He who separates himself seeks his own desire. He quarrels against all sound wisdom.
- **Proverbs 18:2** A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.

Questions to Ask

1. Avoid having many separate conversations.
2. Recognize the difference between “selling” and “sharing.”
3. Know when to “open the circle.”

7. Have I Honestly Considered the Warning Signs?

- **Proverbs 10:17** He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray.
- **Proverbs 16:25** There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.
- **Proverbs 27:6** Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Questions to Ask

1. Don't think you are the “exception” to the rule.
2. Remember that God's way is the best way.

8. Have I Considered the Possible Outcomes for My Course of Action?

- **Proverbs 14:1** The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.
- **Proverbs 14:15** The naïve believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps.
- **Proverbs 27:12** A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve proceed and pay the penalty.

Questions to Ask

1. Do the “long math.”
2. Assess the potential risks.
3. Have a contingency plan.

9. Could This Decision Jeopardize My Integrity or Hinder My Witness for the Lord?

- **Proverbs 25:26** Like a trampled spring and a polluted well is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.
- **Proverbs 10:9** He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.
- **Proverbs 20:7** A righteous man who walks in his integrity—how blessed are his sons after him.
- **Proverbs 22:1** A good name is to be more desired than great riches, favor is better than silver and gold.

Questions to Ask

1. Work toward the “center” rather than flirt with the “edge.”
2. Ask yourself, “Would this pass the ‘newspaper’ test?”
3. Keep short accounts.

10. Is There a Better Option That Would Allow Me to Make a Greater Impact for God's Kingdom?

- **Proverbs 11:30** The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.

Questions to Ask

1. Ask yourself, “What story could God be writing?”
2. Don't assume that just because something is hard that it is not God's will.
3. Understand how God has uniquely gifted and resourced you.

10 Biblical Principles for Making Wise Decisions by Watermark Community Church

(<https://www.watermark.org/blog/decision-making-principles>) discuss these steps and the questions with your Grow Group/Small Group or family.

Group Questions:

- Do you feel like you currently follow all 10 of these principles when making a decision?
- Which one (ones) do you need to add into your decision making process?
- Can you think of a time where you missed one or more of these principles and it was clear that you should have done them? (Pressure of time-Considering Outcomes-Considering Warning Signs)