

THE COST OF FACING HARD CHOICES

James 1:5: If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Biblical Principles for Hard Choices

Seek Wisdom, Not Just Answers: Ask God for wisdom, trusting He gives it generously (James 1:5).

Study Scripture & Use Godly Counsel: Check if the decision aligns with Biblical principles. Seek advice from spiritually mature people (Proverbs 11:14 Without wise leadership, a nation falls; there is safety in having many advisers.).

Prioritize God's Will Over Convenience: Tough decisions are often tests of character and faith, not about finding the easiest path (Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. ESV).

Commit Your Plans to God: Take time to pray and commit the decision to Him, ensuring you are not moving too fast
(Psalm 37:23-24 The Lord directs the steps of the godly.He delights in every detail of their lives.Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. NLT).

Wait Patiently on God: Do not rush into decisions, as waiting is often essential (Ecclesiastes 11:4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.)

STEPS FOR MAKING DECISIONS

Avoiding Paralysis by Analysis

The verse warns against overanalyzing circumstances to the point of inaction. In life, waiting for perfect conditions can lead to missed opportunities.Bring all anxieties regarding the decision to God

*(Philippians 4:6-7 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 **Then** you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.).*

Faith in Action

Trusting God involves taking steps of faith even when conditions are uncertain. This reflects a reliance on God's sovereignty rather than our own understanding.Surrender Your Will: Base your decision on your commitment to the Lord

*(Joshua 24:15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, **then choose today whom you will serve.** Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods*

of the Amorites in whose land you now live? **But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.**").

Diligence and Responsibility

We are called to be diligent in our responsibilities, whether in work, ministry, or personal growth. Avoiding action due to fear or uncertainty is contrary to biblical teaching. Identify the "Narrow Way": Choose the option that reflects God's character and strengthens your faith rather than merely satisfying personal comforts.

(2 Peter 1:5-7 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone.)

Trusting God's Provision

Just as a farmer trusts that the seeds will grow, we must trust that God will provide and bless our efforts when we step out in faith.

(Psalm 37:23-24 The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. NLT)

Overcoming Fear of Failure

Fear of failure can prevent us from taking necessary actions. Ecclesiastes 11:4 encourages us to overcome this fear by focusing on our responsibilities rather than potential obstacles. Act with Courage: Move ahead with faith after seeking counsel, even with fear or ambiguity.