Making Decisions in Faith

(All prophecies are Jesus speaking unless otherwise indicated.)

I have an overall plan for mankind, but that's separate from the choices of faith that every individual must make every day of their lives. In these matters that are so personal and that involve enormous amounts of personal responsibility, you have to make your own choices, just as you will have to assume the responsibility for your choices; no one else can assume that responsibility for you. Thus you must also have the freedom to make your choices, between you and Me, built on your own faith. You can't make such important decisions based on a general, overall understanding of My plan and will alone.

I give the overall plan and picture, and then it's up to you to make the choices within your faith and what works for you. Nobody can judge that; only you and I know the exact circumstances that you are facing, the factors that will come into play in your decision-making, and where your faith truly rests.

As with everything else in life, these choices of faith are part of your growth process, and growth doesn't always happen in one day or through one decision. There are many decisions that will come your way throughout life, and many opportunities to learn through the decisions that you make, and to grow in faith to be able to make decisions that require a higher level of faith.

I am much more flexible and open-minded than most people give Me credit for. I'm not a mean God with a big stick, just waiting for you to step out of line. I look upon you with mercy and unconditional love; I want you to be happy, fruitful, and at peace. I want you to have confidence in My love, and to know that I am eager to lead you in a plain path--and that path is different for each person.

I'm not putting all Family members on a giant conveyor belt that herds them in the same direction without any variance or flexibility. I'm a loving, flexible God, and I am more than willing to work with each individual and to come up with a tailor-made, perfect plan for each one, if they're willing to ask Me.--These plans will be different for each family and individual, because you are each unique creations with unique needs and circumstances.

If you come to understand this aspect of My nature more fully, My understanding and flexibility and open-mindedness, then you will have more faith to make decisions as I lead you. (1)

You must determine in your heart where your faith lies when it comes to personal decisions. I can see your heart and I know where your faith lies, and I choose to work within the realm of your faith. So when it comes to making the personal decisions that you face, it's good to seek godly counsel and to heed it, but you must also come to Me and let Me speak to your heart and show you what My will is within the realm of your faith. There are seven ways to know My will, and godly counsel is one of the seven, but it is not the only way to know My will. You must also go to My Word, hear My personal counsel to you, and find out where your faith lies. (2)

You have to make decisions in faith if you want good results. If you make a decision just because you think it's probably the right thing to do, but you haven't really prayed about it, thought it through, and don't have the faith for it, then when you face the results or repercussions of your decision, even if it was a good thing, or when related trials and tests come, they will be harder for you to handle than if you were prepared and ready, with your spiritual armor in order, because you made the decision in faith. (3)

(Dad speaking:) You can make up all kinds of excuses, but the truth is, it all comes down to you, your choices, who you are, what you choose, what you want, and how much you're willing to fight. It all comes down to your faith, to how much you listen to the Lord or how much you listen to the Enemy, to how much you yield to the Lord or how much you yield to the Enemy or to your own desires or wants. You are who you make yourself. You are the sum of your decisions. (4)

You should pray and seek Me and operate according to your faith. It is not enough for you to act on the assumption that something is right and "think you have the faith for it," as you may find yourself in a precarious situation when your faith is put to the test. (5)

I genuinely want what's best for you, and I will counsel you as to the best options for you, taking into consideration your personal faith. (6)

I wish for you to seek Me and to find your level of faith on all matters and to operate accordingly. (7)

(Dad speaking:) There are many ways to know God's will, and when combined they all work together to help

bring you to that place where you feel knowledgeable enough and with enough faith to make the final decision.

In most cases, you have to use several of the "ways to know God's will" together in order to find the answer or make the decision. Sometimes the Lord gives you an outright revelation through one method alone, but in most cases, the Lord likes for you to use many avenues for finding His will, or even for finding where His will isn't.

Dreams, visions, prophecy, the Word, experience, and counsel with others are all part of discovering the Lord's will. But in the end, once you have gone through these things, you still have to make the call and make your choice, based on your personal faith and conviction about what God's will is for you. These methods provide clues or pieces to the puzzle, but you have to put them all together and make your decision.

The Lord loves to bring decisions and choices your way, because this teaches you how to wisely use the gift and freedom of choice that He has given you. It also gives you opportunity to work together with the Lord, to grow in your relationship with Him, and to learn more about Him and His wonderful ways.

Of course, the Lord likes for you to receive and seek out counsel and input from others. This is one of the ways of discovering His will. But in the end He wants you to realize that the final decision is your responsibility. The temptation can be great to rely heavily on others' opinions or faith or leadings. But when you take responsibility for your own choices, you have to come to terms with where your faith truly lies.

Sometimes you feel that you don't have enough faith to make a decision. Maybe you are younger in the Lord than someone else, and you feel that it would be wise to go by their leading or even to go by their faith, since perhaps their faith is "better" or "bigger" than yours. But when the Lord is working in your life and you're faced with a decision, He will give you the faith for the decision that He wants you to make--you can count on that.

You must have faith that the Lord can speak to you personally, that He can guide you correctly. You must have faith that, when you come to the Lord ready to know His mind, He will speak to you clearly and He will work with your faith in order to help you to make the right decision. Your decisions are important to the Lord, and He wants you to have faith for the decisions that you make. [8]

It's good to counsel with others, to receive godly counsel, to get prayer, to get a listening ear, to get some words of comfort, encouragement, and advice, but remember that the final decision needs to be made by you--in counsel with Me. It's a lot easier to ask someone for the answers rather than doing the hard work of seeking Me for yourself. But you can't go the route of just asking others and neglecting to seek Me yourself.

It's very important that you, or you and whoever else is ultimately involved, have the faith for the action, for the solution. You should not rely only on what others think or feel should be done. While you may take their advice and seriously consider it and pray about it, in the end it has to be your faith and your decision.

False faith is when you follow through on counsel that is given, but you don't have the conviction and certainty in your heart which that faith gives.

The right thing to do is what I show you to do and what you personally have the faith for, not what whoever you talked with, has the faith for. The final decision is for you and any others involved to decide.

There are many reasons why you should not simply make a decision based on someone else's faith. One of the most important reasons is that decision-making gives you experience, teaches you lessons, and helps you to grow and mature. Your life is yours to live, and yours to learn from too. Learning to listen to advice, but to ultimately find your own faith, to find My recommendation for you, and to make a prayerful decision for yourself is how you progress in spirit. Life is full of decisions, and they are a constant shaping and directing force on your life and your character. Letting someone else decide for you, or blindly following another's advice, is not the way to growth and wisdom. It's a shortcut that bypasses the lessons and progress I have for you.

Also, if you were to listen to your friend and act on the advice they've given you, without having full faith yourself that this is the right course of action, and then something went wrong, it could cause damage to your relationship with that person, because the natural reaction is to blame the person who suggested that you consider doing such and such. Of course, a mature person will realize that what they do in life is their own choice, and the consequences fall on them too. But this is one reason why it's important that you are the one making the decision and that you act according to what you believe is the right thing to do.

The best one to talk to when making a final decision is Me. I will give you the direction to take. It's good and helpful to ask for counsel, and especially to ask him or her to pray for you to hear from Me clearly so you can make a wise decision. I will show you the best possible route to take. I will be your sound counselor in these difficult decisions.

But, whatever you do, don't act on the counsel of others without having a personal conviction and the faith for it. It's not that you shouldn't ever take someone else's advice. Godly counsel is one of the ways of discovering My will, and I may well show you that so-and-so's advice is My will for you, and encourage you to follow it. But the difference is that you sought Me and you have the faith for it, and you made the final decision.

I am always there to help you, to give you advice and direction, so pray and ask Me. I will not lead you astray if you'll commit your ways to Me. Seek Me and I will shine a light on the path you must take, the decision you must make. Together we are an unbeatable team, and I will give you the faith you'll need to act on the decision we make. I love you and I want us to be a team in the decisions you must make in your life. [9]

You are the one who is ultimately responsible for your life. You are the one who must ensure that your life is

heading in the right direction. You're the one who must make the right choices that will lead your life to the right places. You're the one who must see to it that good fruit is growing on the tree of your life. Because of this, you will want to be sure that you have personal faith and conviction for every decision that you make.

I want you to live a meaningful life--one that both you and I will be proud of. Through teamworking with Me, you allow Me to be more intimately and directly involved in your life and in your decision-making. Then, through the decisions that you and I make together, you can be confident that your life is following a good path, because I've shown you where to walk. (10)

If you have faith in My plan for your life, and faith in the knowledge that there is a "God's will" in every situation, then with time and desperation, you will discover My plan. Settling for what feels right emotionally can cause you to make a mistake or miss My will. (11)

You may never know how pivotal one choice is. That's why I urge you to strive to make the right choices, My choices, at every turn. That's why I instruct you to hear from Me, to stay firmly grounded in the Word, and to keep your connection with Me established and strong. It's so that when you're faced with choices, your faith will be strong enough so that you'll make the right ones--choices for Me, choices that will enable My will to play out, choices that will in turn bring fulfillment and happiness to your life, as well as many rewards in the life to come. (12)

It takes faith to choose My way, but it always pays in the end. I won't let you down. (13)

It's a time of testing and decision, a time of praying and communing within the heart, a time of proving the faith and conviction of My children. Some will decide to follow even more closely; they will decide to put away the things that hinder and keep them from seeing clearly where I'm leading. And some will decide to follow afar off. (14)

1. Devotional: Childbearing and Contraceptives #3799:88-90, 92-94
2. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:19
3. Devotional: Childbearing and Contraceptives #3799:23
4. The Road to Commitment #3064:123
5. Devotional: Childbearing and Contraceptives #3799:82
6. Devotional: Childbearing and Contraceptives #3799:100
7. Devotional: Childbearing and Contraceptives #3799:86
8. Target: God's Will #3791:63-69
9. Why Shepherding, Part 2 #3649:22, 23, 26-32
10. Target: God's Will #3791:61, 62
11. Target: God's Will #3791:50
12. Crowns on the Ice! #3465:237
13. Target: God's Will #3791:60
14. Weakness Revolution--How You Can Make It!, The--Part 1 #3218A:83