**Second Dimension – Christianity Experienced**

**Segment II – *“Enjoying the Privileges”* Progressive Bible Concepts - #24 “Decision Making Grid”**

**Discussion Questions:**

* What major decision are you wrestling with currently?
* Share a past decision you made that you later regretted?
* How do we confirm that our decisions are within the will of God?

**Knowing the Will of God
Core Passages*:***

* “*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the k\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His will in all spiritual w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord…”* Colossians 1:9, 10*.”*
* *“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ men but as w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but u\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what the will of the Lord is.”* Ephesians 5:15-17*.*

**God’s Will Biblical Words:**

* ***Thelema*** – that which is w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* ***Boulema*** - a deliberate d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, that which is p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**God’s Will Exists on 3 Levels:**

1. God’s S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will - God’s sovereign plan for the affairs of men
2. God’s R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will - God’s commands in the Bible that teaches us how to believe and live
3. God’s I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Will - God’s detailed life plan that is uniquely designed for each person

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**Traditional Approach:**

* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: For each of our decisions God has a perfect plan or will.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Our goal is to discover God’s individual will and make decisions in accordance with it.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: We interpret the inner impressions and outward signs through which the Holy Spirit communicates His leading.
* P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The confirmation that we have correctly discerned the individual will of God comes from an inner sense of peace and outward (successful) results of the decision.

**Wisdom Approach:**

* Where God c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we must obey.
* Where there is no command, God gives us f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (and responsibility) to choose.
* Where there is no command, God gives us w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to choose.
* When we have chosen what is m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we must trust the sovereign God to work all the details together for good.

**Decision Making Path of Wisdom:**

* **Core Verse -** “Who is the man who fears the Lord, he will instruct him in the way he should **choose**.” **Psalm 25:12**

**Six Check Points:**

1. D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – What is your heart’s desire?
2. O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – What opportunity is there?
3. C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ – How has God hardwired/resourced you?
4. H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (with S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) - Are you within the revealed will of God?
5. O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wise c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) – What are the wise people God has placed in your life advising you to do?
6. T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (inner p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) – Has God confirmed His will by giving you His peace?

**1. Desirability - *What is your heart’s desire?***

* “*The king’s h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ He wishes.”* Prov 21:1
* *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (requests) of your h\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Psalm 37:4*
* *“What man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will give him a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Or if he shall ask for a f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, he will not give him a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will he?” Matt 7:9, 10*

**Example – Solomon - I Kings 3:3-15a, II Chronicles 1:3-13**

**Principle** **– Wise decisions flow from an a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**2. Opportunity – *Is the door open?***

* *“He who is holy, who is true, who has the key of David, who o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and no man can s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and who s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and no man can o\_\_\_\_\_\_…behold I have put before you an open door that no one can shut…”* Rev 3:7,8
* *“…Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ u\_\_\_\_ to us a d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;”* Colossians 4:3
* “And when they had arrived, the gathered the church together, and began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27

**Example – Paul and Barnabas - Acts 16:6-10**

* “They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, **c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

**Principle – God’s guides through open and closed doors.**

**3**. **Competency (capability)- *How has God hardwired and resourced you?***

* *“And what do you have that you have not r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?”* I Cor 4:7
* *“As each one has r\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a special g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” I Peter 4:10*
* *“Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand has made me this wealth. But you shall remember the Lord your God. For it is He who is giving you p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Deut 8:17, 18*
* *“Whoever serves, let him do so as by the s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified.” I Pet 4:11*

**Example – Tabernacle Craftsman Bezalel**

* *“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. 3I have f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, 4to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, 5and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.”* Exodus 31:2-5
* *“Do you see a man s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his work? He will stand before kings, he will not stand before obscure men.”Prov 22:29*
* *“And now s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me(Solomon) a s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ man to work in gold, silver, brass, and iron, and in purple, crimson, and violet fabrics, and who knows how to make engravings, to work with the skilled men, whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.” II Chron 2:7*
* *“Which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first s\_\_ d\_\_\_\_ and c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the cost, to see if he as enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying,’ this man began to build and was not able to finish’.” Luke 14:28-30*

**Principle – God guides us to specific tasks, functions, and opportunities by equipping us with specific competencies and resources to perform them.**

**4. Harmony (with Scripture) - *Are you within the revealed will of God?***

* *“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the traditions of men. He was also saying to them, “You nicely set aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.* He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother, is to be put to death’; 11but you say, ‘If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),’ 12you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; 13*thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do m\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things s\_\_\_\_\_\_ as that.” *Mark 7:8-13*

***Related Verses***

* ***“****I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your l\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is within my heart.” Psalm 40:8*
* *“Thy word is a* ***lamp*** *unto my feet, a* ***light*** *to my path.” Psalm 119:105*
* *“For the (your)* ***commandment*** *is a lamp, and the (your)* ***teaching*** *is a light.” Prov 6:23*

**Examples:**

* ***Saul*** *– I Samuel 13:8-13 –* He grew impatient and instead of waiting for Samuel the priest, he himself offered the burnt offerings. *“You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God.”*
* ***David*** *– I Samuel 24:1-22 –* Even though Saul was trying to kill David unjustly, David did not kill Saul when he had the chance because of the commandment of the Lord not to strike His anointed.

**Principle – God’s individual will never c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His revealed will (God’s will never contradicts His word).**

**5. Objectivity (wise counsel) – *What is the collective opinion of your trusted advisors?***

**Proverbs 1:5**

* “*A wise man will hear and increase in learning,
And a man of understanding will a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wise c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,”*

***Related Verses:***

* *Keep in mind, not all counsel is wise counsel – I Kings 12:1-15*
* *Jesus – The W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Counselor – Isaiah 9:6b*
* *“Prepare plans by consultation, and make war by wise g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Prov 20:18*
* “*Without c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, plans are frustrated,
But with many counselors they succeed.”* Prov 15:22
* *“In a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of counselors, there is safety.” Prov 24:6*

**Example – The Jerusalem Council – Acts 15**

**Principle – Seeking wise counsel ensures the necessary objectivity for wise decisions.**

**6. Tranquility** (inner p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) **-** *Has God confirmed His will by giving you His peace?*

* *“For God is not a God of c\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but of p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” I Cor 14:33*
* “*For where…s\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ exists, there is d\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (confusion) and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, gentle, reasonable…without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, by those who make p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”* James 3:16-18

**Example – Paul being ready to die in Jerusalem. Acts 21:11-14**

**Principle - *God’s perfect p\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is found in the midst of His perfect w\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.***

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**Concluding Promise:**

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

“O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.” 2 Chronicles 20:12

**Next Week:** Concept 25 – “Living by Faith”