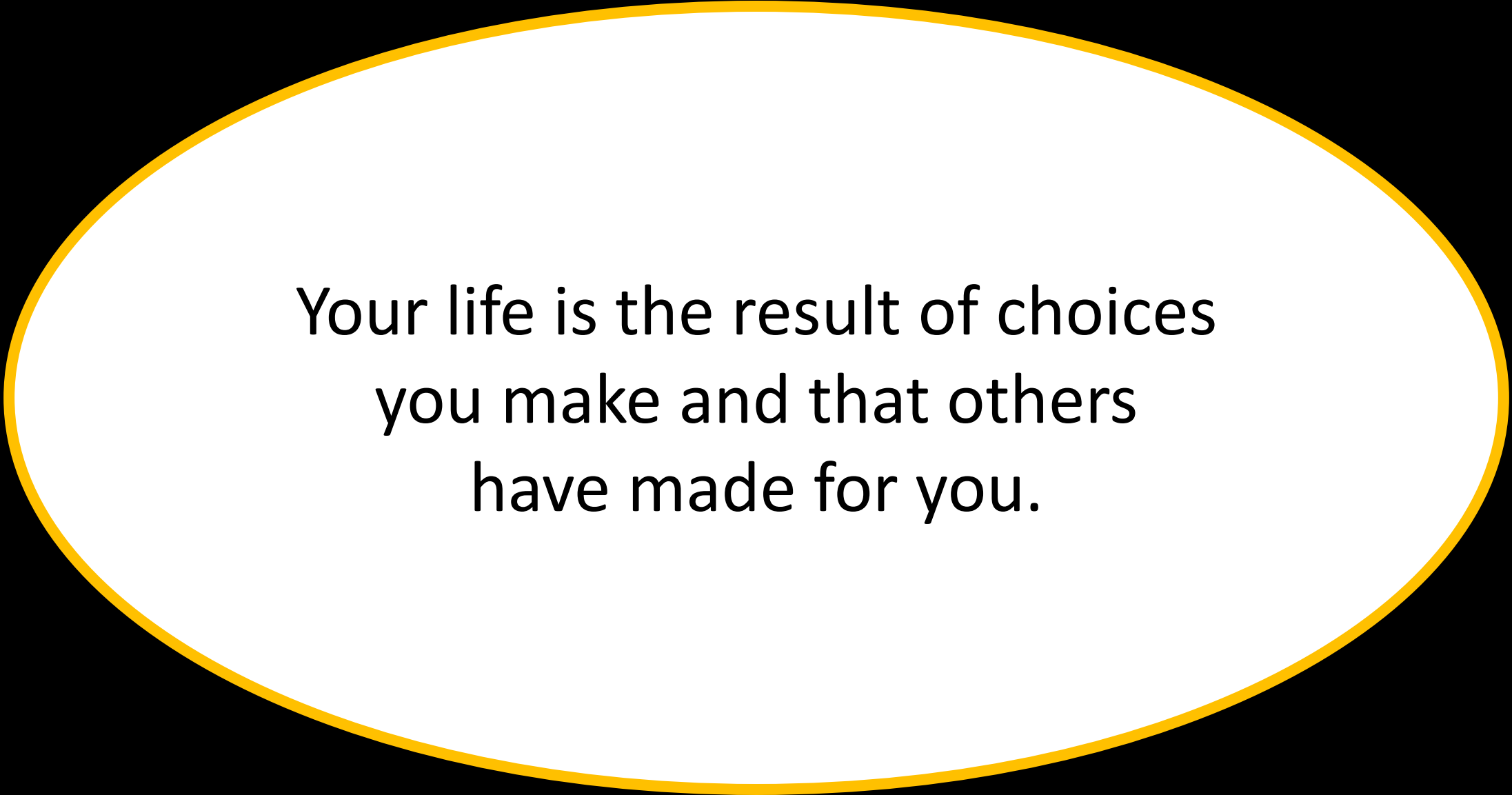
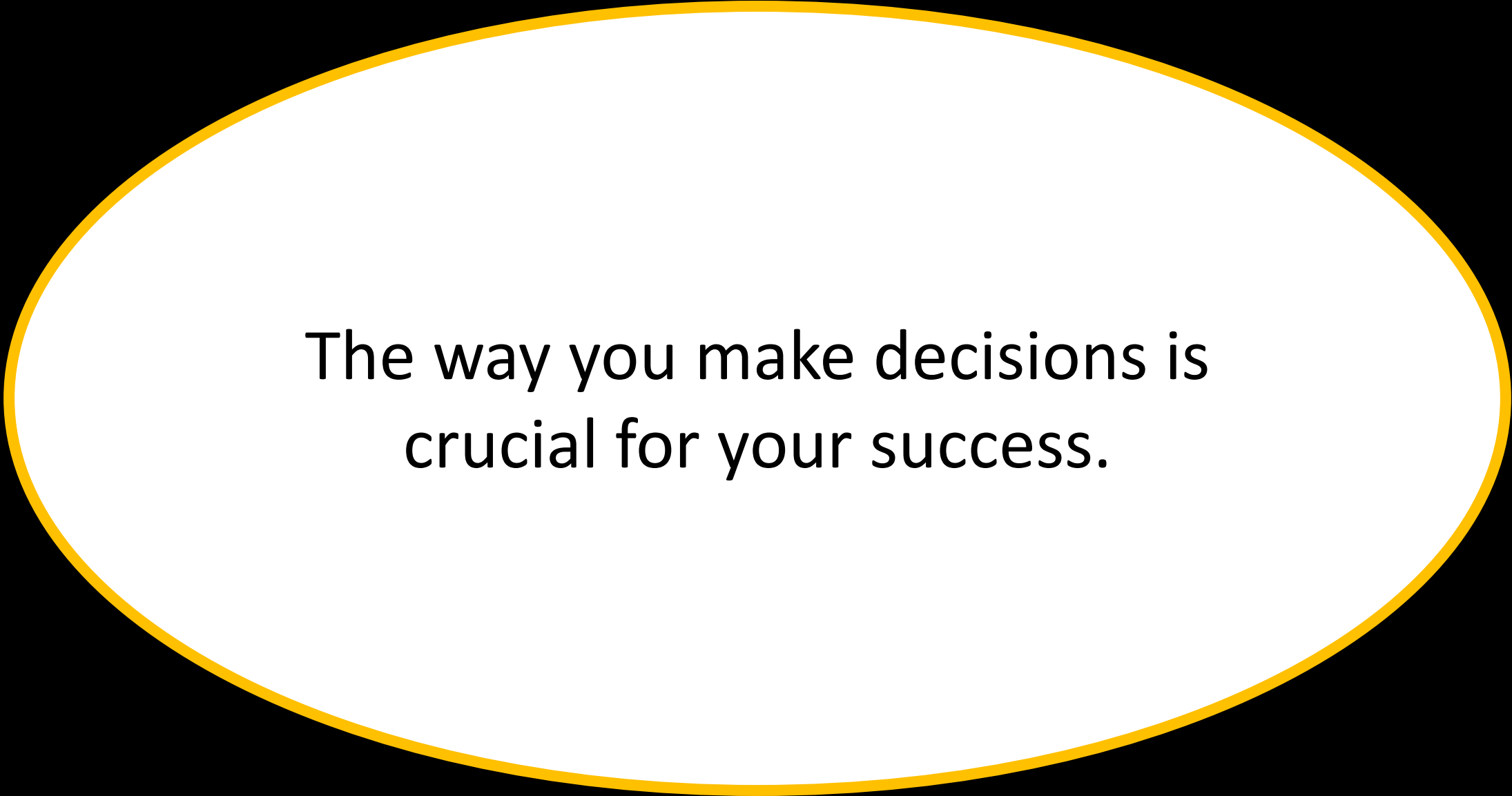


# Wise Decisions

# Wise Decisions and Their Enemies



Your life is the result of choices  
you make and that others  
have made for you.



The way you make decisions is  
crucial for your success.

The enemies of wise decisions  
bombard you at all times.

This study steers you toward good choices by showing how bad decisions are made.

A sermon was preached 20  
months ago against  
bad decisions.

<https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2021/destructive-decision-making/>

God's providence sent  
Proverbs 4:7 to us  
four days ago.



Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom:  
and with all thy getting get understanding.

Exalt her, and she shall promote thee:  
she shall bring thee to honour,  
when thou dost embrace her.

She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace:  
a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:7-9

The Bible has examples, rules,  
and warnings for wisdom  
to make wise choices.

Judge not according to the appearance,  
but judge righteous judgment.

John 7:24

Good understanding giveth favour:  
but the way of transgressors is hard.  
Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge:  
but a fool layeth open his folly.

Proverbs 13:15-16

The simple believeth every word:  
but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

Proverbs 14:15

The Bible has examples of wise men that knew how to make decisions.

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him,  
and behaved himself wisely:  
and Saul set him over the men of war,  
and he was accepted in the sight of all the people,  
and also in the sight of Saul's servants.  
And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways;  
and the LORD was with him.

I Samuel 18:5,14

Then the princes of the Philistines went forth:  
and it came to pass, after they went forth,  
that David behaved himself more wisely  
than all the servants of Saul;  
so that his name was much set by.

I Samuel 18:30



As for these four children, God gave them  
knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom:  
and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams....  
And in all matters of wisdom and understanding,  
that the king enquired of them,  
he found them ten times better than  
all the magicians and astrologers  
that were in all his realm.

Daniel 6:17-20



There is one right way to make  
decisions and four wrong ways.

The four wrong ways are enemies  
seeking to destroy you. Beware!

There are 5 options for making decisions and they all start with **F**.

*Heart/Emotions* = **Feelings**

*Circumstances* = **Fleece**

*Ambition/Pride* = **Fortune**

*Approval/Fear of Men* = **Fad**

*Trust and Obey God* = **Faith**

Would you like a cheat sheet that  
explains all five and shows  
you how they work?

**Click on link to print the**  
***Decision Cheat Sheet***

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/making-wise-decisions2.pdf>

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What do we conclude? Reject **fleece**, **fortune**, **fads**; choose your desired way by Scripture and trust God for details (Pr 16:9; Jas 4:13-15; Ru 2:3; Ps 127:1-2).  
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# Making Wise Decisions

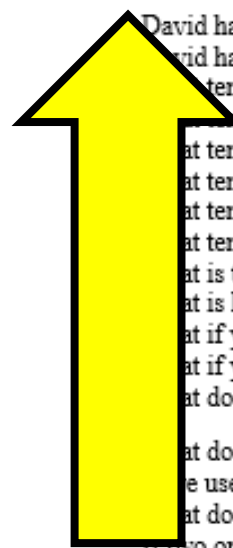
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# Making Wise Decisions

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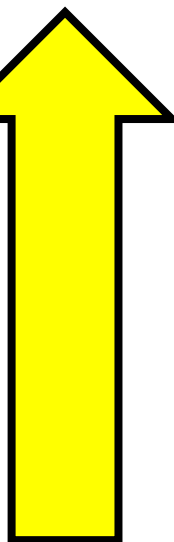
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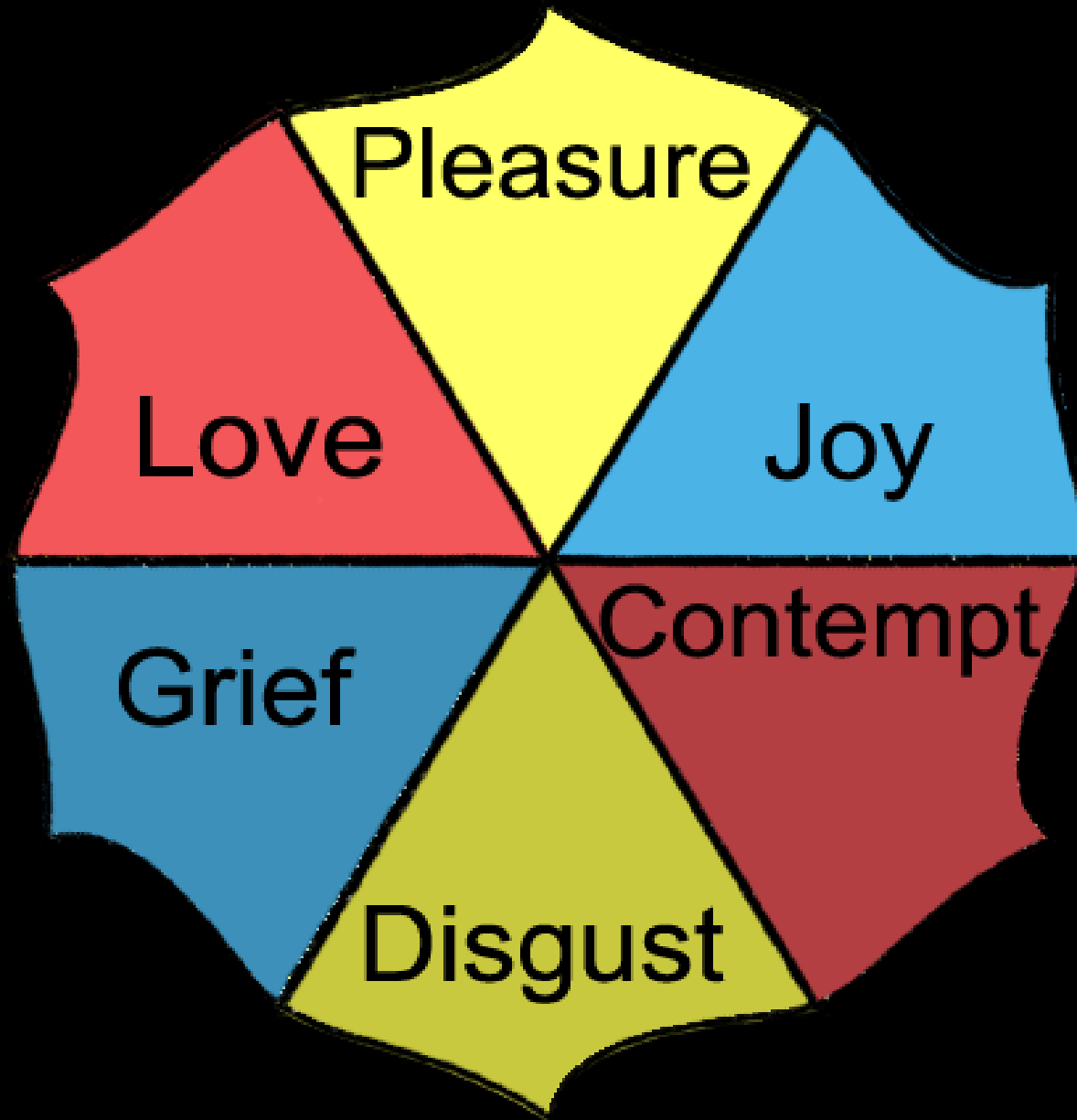
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Your life will be good or bad,  
great or terrible ... depending  
on your choices and decisions.



follow  
— your —  
heart  
— ♥ —



Pleasure

Joy

Contempt

Disgust

Grief

Love



# FEELINGS



# Making Wise Decisions

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**YOU**



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and desperately wicked:  
who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:  
but whoso walketh wisely,  
he shall be delivered.

Proverbs 28:26

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,  
but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

**YOU**



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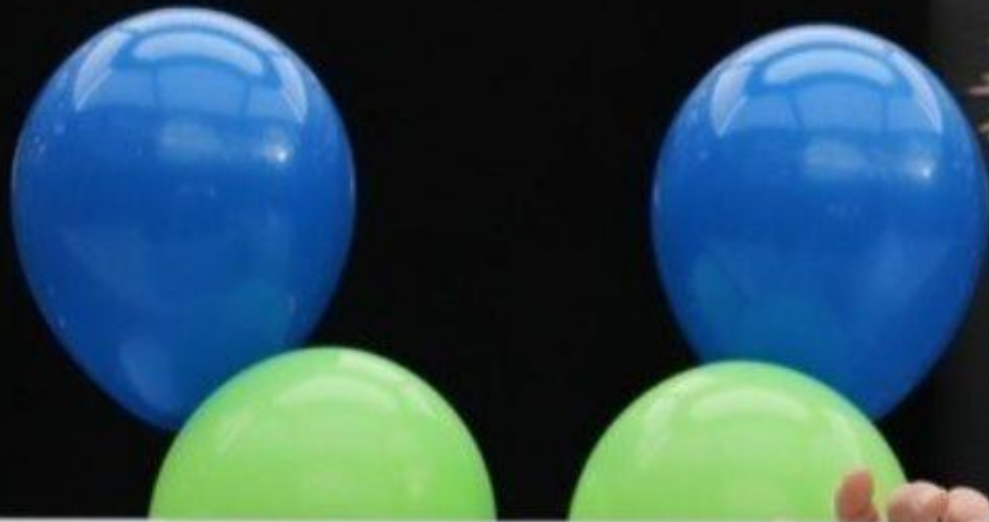
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 If two options are equal in light of Scripture, what process makes the final decision? The liberty of your desire, a multitude of counselors, and maybe a prayerful **fleece**!





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ORDER OF

**Mitchel Dyck**

**\$70,000,000.00**

DOLLARS  
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**COINCIDENCE**

# **“Coincidence?”**

**James 1:16-18**

A scenic landscape featuring rolling green hills and a winding river. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow light, and there are some clouds. The river flows through the valley, curving through the hills.

**Coincidence is God's way  
of remaining anonymous.**

# Making Wise Decisions

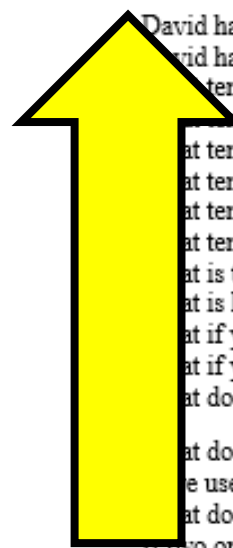
“And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and **behaved himself wisely**: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.”

“And David **behaved himself wisely in all his ways**; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that **he behaved himself very wisely**, he was afraid of him.”

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<b>Fleece</b> (circumstances)	<b>Feelings</b> (heart / emotions)	<b>Fortune</b> (ambition / pride)	<b>Fad</b> (approval / fear of men)	<b>Faith</b> (trust and obey God)
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“And it was so: for he  
rose up early on the  
morrow, and thrust the  
fleece together, and wringed  
the dew out of the fleece,  
a bowl full of water.”

Judges .VI. 38.

**YOU**

**Fleece**

**Feelings**

He that observeth the wind shall not sow;  
and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:4



For the turning away of the simple shall slay them,  
and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

Proverbs 1:32

These things hast thou done, and I kept silence;  
thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself:  
but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

Psalm 50:21

**YOU**

**Fleece**

**Feelings**

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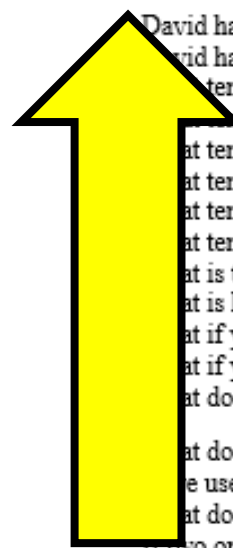
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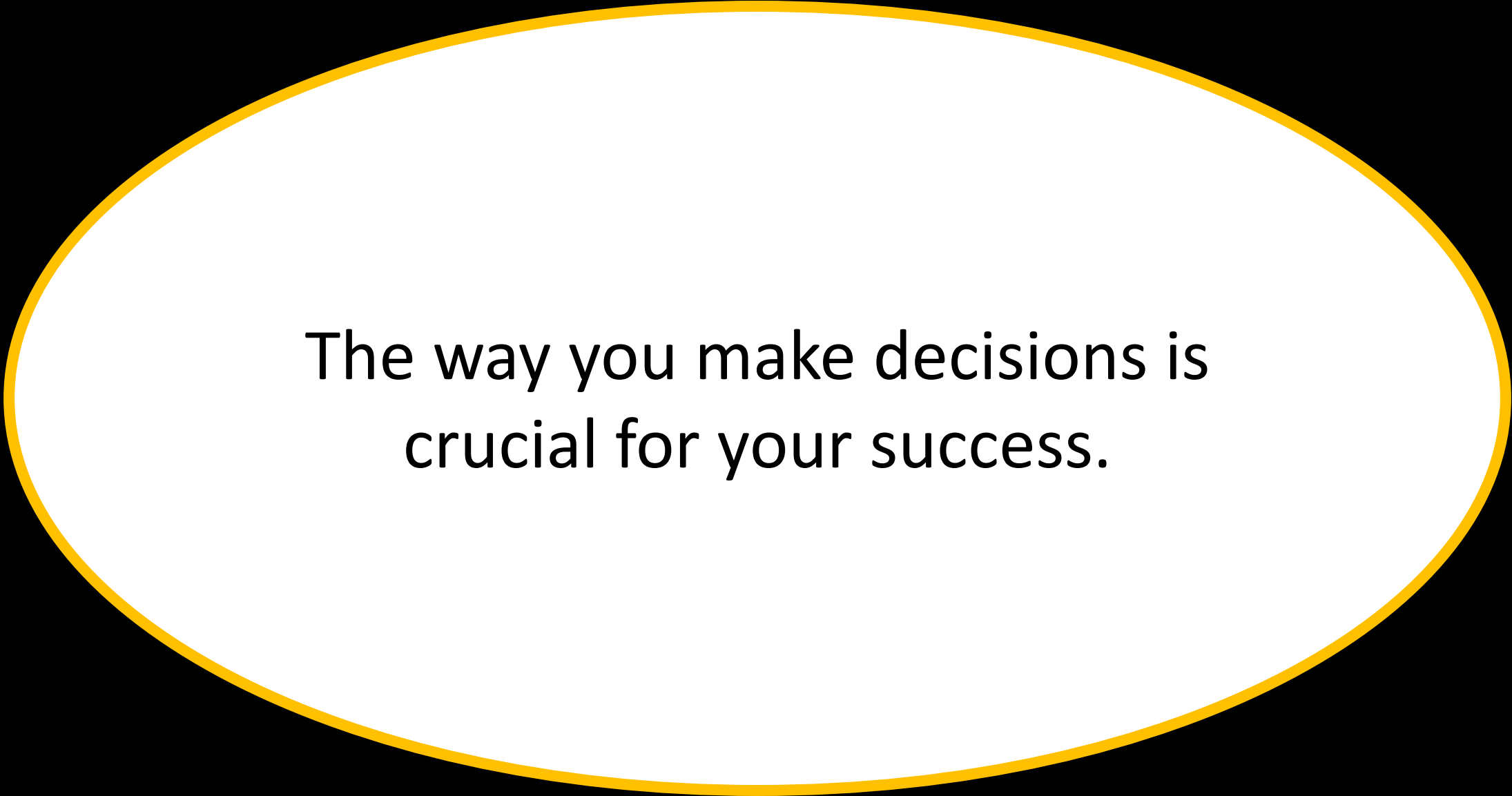
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The way you make decisions is  
crucial for your success.









# FORTUNE

A black and white portrait of Mark Zuckerberg, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. He is wearing a dark zip-up hoodie over a t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

“IT’S PROBABLY  
ONE OF THE  
BIGGEST  
MISTAKES  
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THE RE-EDUCATION OF  
**MARK  
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BY JESSI HEMPEL



FORTUNE  
BRAINSTORM  
GREEN:

INSIDE CHINA'S  
FRACKING  
BOOM, PLUS  
DEAN KAMEN'S  
NEXT GREAT  
INVENTIONS

ARE YOU  
READY  
FOR THE  
\$10,000  
SMART-  
PHONE?

BANK OF  
AMERICA:  
IT'S BAAAAACK

APRIL 29, 2013  
NUMBER 6 / FORTUNE.COM

# Making Wise Decisions

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**Fortune**

**Feelings**

**YOU**

**Fleece**

Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit?  
there is more hope of a fool than of him.

Proverbs 26:12

But godliness with contentment is great gain....  
But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare,  
and into many foolish and hurtful lusts,  
which drown men in destruction and perdition.  
For the love of money is the root of all evil:  
which while some coveted after,  
they have erred from the faith,  
and pierced themselves through  
with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:6-10

And every one that hath forsaken houses,  
or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother,  
or wife, or children, or lands,  
for my name's sake,  
shall receive an hundredfold,  
and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:29

**Fortune**

**Feelings**

**YOU**

**Fleece**

# Making Wise Decisions

“And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and **behaved himself wisely**: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.”

“And David **behaved himself wisely in all his ways**; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that **he behaved himself very wisely**, he was afraid of him.”

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What do we conclude? Reject fleeces, feelings, fortune, fads; choose your desired **faith** by scripture and trust God for details (Pr 16:9; Jas 4:13-15; Ru 2:3; Ps 127:1-2). If we use a fleece, we tempt God; if we follow feelings, we can be deceived; if we follow fortune, we will lose our lives. Faith trusts God over any man or all men. What do we conclude? Obeying God and seeking His kingdom first are essential for wise decisions (Ps 37:4; 128:1-4; Pr 28:13; Eccl 12:13-14; Hag 2:5-11; Matt 6:33). If two options are equal in light of Scripture, what process makes the final decision? The liberty of your desire, a multitude of counselors, and maybe a prayerful fleece!



Your life is the result of choices  
you make and that others  
have made for you.









Like



Like



Like

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Like

# Making Wise Decisions

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**Fortune**

**Feelings**

**YOU**

**Fad**

**Fleece**

Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil;  
neither shalt thou speak in a cause  
to decline after many to wrest judgment:...

Exodus 23:2



My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Proverbs 1:10

The fear of man bringeth a snare:  
but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

If any man come to me,  
and hate not his father, and mother,  
and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters,  
yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26

**Fortune**

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**YOU**

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The enemies of wise decisions  
bombard you at all times.

# FEELINGS ... Corrupt Decisions

Love

Lust

Anger

Moods

Appetites

Energy

Family

# FLEECE ... Corrupts Decisions

Circumstances

Coincidences

Results

Horoscope

Weather

Signs

Timing



# FORTUNE ... Corrupts Decisions

Money

House

Promotion

Car

Grades

Job

Ambition

# FAD ... Corrupt Decisions

Popularity

Fear

Social media

Friends

Peers

World

Acceptance

**Fortune**

**Feelings**

**YOU**

**Fleece**

**Fad**

**The only way to please  
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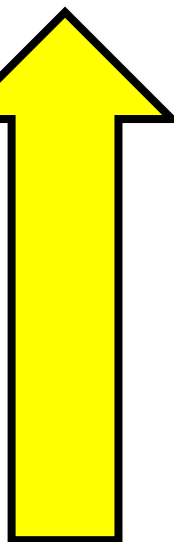
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The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:  
and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,  
to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 14:27

By humility and the fear of the LORD  
are riches, and honour, and life.

Proverbs 22:4



Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him,  
and he shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

But without faith it is impossible to please him:  
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,  
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,  
the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebrews 11:1-2

(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

II Corinthians 5:7

# Making Wise Decisions

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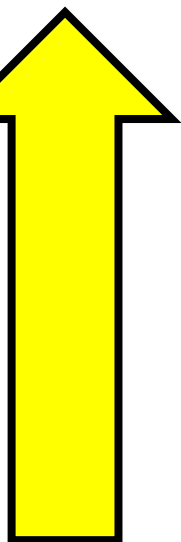
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# FAITH ... Always Wins

Fears God

Loves God

Trusts God

Exalts Bible

Sees Invisible

Sees Reward

Wins Race

***God and the Bible are better than your feelings or heart.***

***God and the Bible are better than a fortune of any kind.***

***God and the Bible are better than any fad by mere men.***

***God and Bible are better than any fleece or coincidences.***

# FAITH ... Makes Champions

Abraham

Joseph

Moses

Rahab

David

Daniel

Esther



# Many Decisions in Life

Marriage	Job	Church	Friends	Speech
Bible	Music	Rulers	Holidays	Serving
Child training	Attendance	Productivity	Saving	
Alcohol	Television	Clothes	Sex	Prayer

# Making Wise Decisions

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Looking for <i>signs</i> or outside indicators Choosing by <i>circumstances</i> or <i>Fate</i> Valuing <i>results</i> others have achieved Exalting <i>coincidences</i> or <i>chance</i> events Horoscopes, Ouija boards, or psychics	Allows <i>emotions</i> to influence decisions Choosing by <i>intuition</i> or <i>infatuation</i> Also <i>sentimentality, lust, pity, or desire</i> . Follow your <i>heart</i> ? Be true to <i>yourself</i> ? I have <i>peace</i> about it? It just <i>feels right</i> ?	Thinking <i>selfishly</i> for short-term benefit Choosing for an <i>advantage</i> or your <i>gain</i> We call it <i>ambition, covetousness, greed</i> <i>Pride, self-love, discontent, emulation</i> It is making choices to promote yourself	The desire to <i>be accepted</i> by others The world’s <i>peer pressure</i> to conform <i>Love of family/friends</i> to compromise Valuing <i>trends</i> above ancient landmarks The fear of standing alone traps men	<i>Trusts God</i> and His Word absolutely <i>Believes God</i> is and He rewards seekers <i>Bible is perfect</i> manual for life choices Reject <i>signs, feelings, fortune, or fads</i> Bible alone to answer every question
<i>Prosperity of fools</i> deceives (Pr 1:32) <i>Fear or worry</i> are distracting (Ec 11:4) <i>God’s silence</i> can fool you (Ps 50:21) Pagans look to the heavens (Jer 10:2) God condemns all such (Deut 18:9-14) Israel took the ark to battle (I Sam 4:3) Enemies valued location (I Kgs 20:23)	Only fools trust their <i>hearts</i> (Pr 28:26) The <i>heart</i> deceives above all (Jer 17:9) What <i>feels</i> right is wrong (Prov 14:12) We must hate all but God (Luke 14:26) Corinth disliked judging (I Cor 5:1-2) Hate date feelings (Pr 6:23-25; 31:30) Chasten against any crying (Pro 19:18)	<i>Pride distorts choices</i> (Pr 16:18; 26:12) <i>Contentment</i> is great gain (I Tim 6:5-6) <i>Love of money</i> corrupts (I Tim 6:6-10) Losing is winning (Matt 16:25; 19:29) Earthly is belly worship (Phil 3:18-19) Eve, Achan, Ahab, and Demas all failed Moses won <i>gloriously</i> (Heb 11:24-26)	Bad <i>friends</i> hurt (I Cor 15:33; Pr 13:20) Following a <i>multitude</i> is sin (Ex 23:2) <i>Fear of man</i> brings a snare (Pr 29:25) Aaron, Josaphat, Pilate, Festus, Peter But Joshua, Caleb, Daniel stood strong Avoid fools (Pr 1:10-15; 4:14-15; 14:7) Family must be second (Matt 10:34-37)	God is <i>better than your heart</i> (Pr 3:5-6) God is <i>better than a fortune</i> (He 11:26) God is <i>better than a fleece</i> (Luke 5:5-7) God is <i>better than a fad</i> (Ps 73:25-26) Fear of God wins (Pr 9:10; 14:27; 22:4) Scripture is final (Ps 119:128; Is 8:20) David trusted God (I Sa 26:6-12; 30:6)

David had **fleece** of Saul in his hands twice, with **feelings** of revenge, for **fortune** of the throne God had given him, with the **fad** of nephews begging (I Sam 24 & 26).  
David had **fleece** of Bathsheba bathing by chance, with **feelings** of loneliness and lust, justified by **fortune** of being king, with the **fad** of her agreement (II Sam 11:1-5).  
What tempted Joseph when Mrs. Potiphar solicited him? The **feelings** of a beautiful woman and the **fortune** of wonderful employment, but he chose **faith** (Gen 39:7-9).  
What tempted Abraham when God asked for Isaac as a burnt offering? The **feelings** for his son by Sarah and the **fortune** of his promised seed in Israel (Heb 11:17-19).  
What tempted Eli when he knew his sons were committing abominations? The **feelings** against restraining his own sons (I Sam 3:13). But Asa was better (II Chr 15:16).  
What tempted Judas Iscariot? The **fortune** of making extra money, for he was a thief (John 12:6). He may have believed that Jesus would easily escape (Matt 27:3-4).  
What tempted Moses to smite the rock rather than speak to it? His unusual angry **feelings** at the rebellion of the complaining Israelites (Num 20:7-13; Psalm 106:32-33).  
What tempted Jesus in the wilderness with Satan? His hungry **feelings** by the bread; His royal **fortune** by the world; and His identity **fleece** by scripture (Luke 4:1-13).  
What is the temptation of not getting a job interview a month into a job search? We are tempted by **fleece** that God has ruled against it and **feelings** that prayer is vain.  
What is happening when a person praying about a car they should not have finds one for sale nearby? The Lord is using **fleece** to test that person’s faith and obedience.  
What if you met a perfect unbeliever by chance, loved each other much, with very rich parents, which everyone adored? God tested you by all four errors (II Cor 6:14).  
What if you chanced into a job that others craved, was just what you wanted to do, and paid more than any other, but required compromise? Again, God is testing you.  
What do we say about the Bible, if we use a **fleece** in things clearly stated? We despise it and tempt God by asking for direction in a matter already answered in writing.

What do we conclude? Reject fleeces, feelings, fortune, fads; choose your desired way by Scripture and trust God for details (Pr 16:9; Jas 4:13-15; Ru 2:3; Ps 127:1-2).  
If we use a fleece, we tempt God; if we follow feelings, we can be deceived; if we seek worldly gain, we will lose our lives. Faith trusts God over any man or all men.  
What do we conclude? Obeying God and seeking His kingdom first are essential basics to decisions (Ps 37:4; 128:1-4; Pr 28:13; Eccl 12:13-14; Hag 2:5-11; Matt 6:33).  
If two options are equal in light of Scripture, what process makes the final decision? The liberty of your desire, a multitude of counselors, and maybe a prayerful fleece!



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# For Further Study

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