Let God Be True!

Making Wise Decisions

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"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.

"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 18:5,14-15,30

Fleece	Feelings	Fortune	Faith
Gideon (Judges 6:36-40)	Amnon (II Samuel 13:1-16)	Lot (Genesis 13:10-11)	Abraham (Hebrews 11:8)
He knew God's will, but wanted signs	Love and hate caused sinful choices	He chose riches and lost everything	He went to a new land purely by faith
Looking for signs or outside indicators	Allows feelings to influence decisions	Thinking selfishly for the short-term	Trusts God and His Word absolutely
Choosing by circumstances or fate	Choosing by intuition or conviction	Choosing for your gain or advantage	Believes God is and He rewards seekers
We call this superstition or mysticism	We call this sentimentality or lust	We call this covetousness or greed	Disregards signs, feelings, and fortune
Horoscopes, ouija boards, or psychics	Infatuation, emotion, pity, or desire	Pride, self-love, discontent, or emulate	Bible is perfect manual for life choices
Valuing coincidences or chance events	I have peace about it; it just feels right	It is making choices to protect yourself	Bible alone to answer every question
Enemies changed locale (I Kgs 20:23)	The heart deceives above all (Jer 17:9)	Love of money ruins (I Tim 6:6-10)	Scripture is absolute (Psalm 119:128)
Israel took the ark to battle (I Sam 4:3)	We must hate all but God (Lu 14:26)	Losing is winning (Matt 16:25; 19:29)	Faith pleases God (Hebrews 11:1,6)
Pagans look to the heavens (Jer 10:2)	Corinth did not judge (I Cor 5:1-2)	Generosity brings returns (Pro 11:24)	Scripture is only light (Isaiah 8:19-20)
God condemns all such (Deut 18:9-14)	Hate date feelings (Pr 6:23-25; 31:30)	Achan could not resist (Josh 7:19-26)	Moses' parents had faith (Ex 2:1-4)
His silence can be censure (Ps 50:21)	Chasten against any crying (Pr 19:18)	Eve saw many advantages (Gen 3:6)	David spared Saul (I Samuel 26:6-12)

What tempted Joseph when solicited by Potiphar's wife? 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 (Hebrews 11:17-19).

What tempted Eli when he knew his sons were committing gross sacrilege? The ***feelings*** against killing 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 likely believed that Jesus would easily escape (Matthew 27:3-4).

What tempted Moses to smite the rock rather than speak to it? His unusual angry ***feelings*** at the rebellion of the Israelites (Numbers 20:7-13; Psalm 106:32-33).

What tempted Jesus in His temptations by Satan? His hungry ***feelings*** by the bread; His royal ***fortune*** by the world; and His identity ***fleece*** by the temple (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*** God has ruled against it and ***feelings*** that prayer is hopeless.

Should you cast lots about attending church Sunday? Reading your Bible tomorrow? Choosing between a godly and ungodly spouse? What is this error? A ***fleece***.

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 passionately and constantly, and they had rich and kind parents? God is testing you (II Cor 6:14).

What if you were given a job by great chance, was just what you wanted to do, and paid more than you had imagined, but required compromise? God is testing you.

What do we say of the Bible when we use a ***fleece*** in a thing clearly stated? We despise it and tempt God by asking for a ***fleece*** in a matter already answered in writing.

What do we conclude? Rejecting fleeces, feelings, and greed, 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 seek a fleece, we tempt God; if we follow feelings, we will be deceived; if we seek worldly gain, we will lose our lives. Faith trusts God and His perfect Word.

If two options are both equally wise by Scripture, what methods complete our wise decision? A multitude of counselors, our desire, and then maybe a prayerful fleece.