

TRUTH: Using the Bible to Make Decisions

Proverbs 2:9

📖 Proverbs 2:9 (LB) “He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time.”

SIX WAYS TO TEST A DECISION

The **INSTANT** Test: Is it in **harmony** with the **Bible**?

📖 Psalm 119:11 (NIV) “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

📖 1 Timothy 5:24 (NIV) “The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.”

📖 Psalm 119:105 (NIV) “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

The **INTEGRITY** Test: Would I want **others** to **know** about it?

📖 Luke 8:17 (NIV) “For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.”

📖 Proverbs 10:9 (NIV) “The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.”

The **IMPROVEMENT** Test: Will it help **me** become a better **person**?

📖 1 Corinthians 10:23 (NIV) “Everything is permissible”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible”—but not everything is constructive.”

📖 Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you...”

The **INDEPENDENCE** Test: Is there a **risk** of **addiction**?

📖 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV) “Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me”—but I will not be mastered by anything.”

📖 Galatians 5:1 (NIV) “It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

The **INFLUENCE** Test: Will it **harm** other **people**?

📖 Romans 14:12–13 (NLT) “Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. ¹³ So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.”

📖 Romans 15:1-2 (GNT) “We who are strong in the faith ought to help the weak to carry their burdens. We should not please ourselves. Instead, we should all please our brothers and sisters for their own good, in order to build them up in the faith.”

The **INVESTMENT** Test: Is it the best use of **time** and **resources**?

📖 Philippians 2:4 (NIV) “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

📖 Ephesians 5:15–17 (NCV) “So be very careful how you live. Do not live like those who are not wise, but live wisely. ¹⁶ Use every chance you have for doing good, because these are evil times. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish but learn what the Lord wants you to do.”

📖 Luke 10:38–42 (NIV) “As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to Him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what He said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to Him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” ⁴¹ “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

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Are you wrestling with a decision right now? Of the SIX WAYS TO TEST A DECISION, which one was the most helpful today? Why is it important to consider other people when making decisions? When has a decision that you made been harmful to someone around you? When has a decision been great for you and for other people? What decision has turned out to be your wisest investment? Are you making the most of every day? Do you spend much time at the feet of Jesus?

