

## How to Take the Right Decision Part 2

\* Decision making is one of the tasks that needed to be taken more frequently and on daily bases. \* It is a difficult task, even to those who are well trained and who had passed through many trials and hardships in life and ministry. \* Put in your mind that it is not only that you need to decide but you need to take the right decision.

Some who say, I can decide by myself, I can pray, I am reading my Bible, I am filled with the Holy Spirit, why then I need to ask the leader of the church in taking a decision? Even Joshua was filled with the Holy Spirit but still he needed to keep asking Eleazar to help him in the decision making, *“And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.” (Deuteronomy 34:9 KJV)* Joshua as we read here was filled with the Holy Spirit but in taking decision he needed to ask Eleazar the priest in order to do that because that is the ordinance of God and what He commanded as we read here, *“18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. 21 And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. 22 And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: 23 And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses.” (Numbers 27:18-23 KJV)* You are not better than Joshua, therefore you need to comply with the Word of God.

Let us read how Joshua applied the instruction that Moses gave to him in regard to take a decision for the Lord. *“1 And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof; 2 That they gathered themselves together, to fight with Joshua and with Israel, with one accord. 3 And when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, 4 They did work wilyly, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; 5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. 6 And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us. (Here the Gibeonites resorted to deceive the Israelites and make an agreement with them because they were aware that they will be destroyed, for they were among the nations that God would drive out from the land of Canaan to let His people settle in their place. **The enemy, the devil and its servants, work to deceive us and wants to make an agreement and contract with us. That is why we need to be careful to follow the ways of God and His instruction carefully to avoid their deceptions.**) 7 And the men of Israel said unto the Hivites, Peradventure ye dwell among us; and how shall we make a league with you? 8 And they said unto*

*Joshua, We are thy servants. And Joshua said unto them, Who are ye? and from whence come ye? 9 And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt, 10 And all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond Jordan, to Sihon king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, which was at Ashtaroth. 11 Wherefore our elders and all the inhabitants of our country spake to us, saying, Take victuals with you for the journey, and go to meet them, and say unto them, We are your servants: therefore now make ye a league with us. 12 This our bread we took hot for our provision out of our houses on the day we came forth to go unto you; but now, behold, it is dry, and it is mouldy: 13 And these bottles of wine, which we filled, were new; and, behold, they be rent: and these our garments and our shoes are become old by reason of the very long journey. 14 And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD. (Here, Joshua and the Israelites heard their story carefully, they doubted them, they checked and investigated their evidences that they prepared deceitfully, but they did not ask from the mouth of the Lord. How they did not ask from the mouth of God? Joshua did not go and stand before Eleazar the priest; he did not call Eleazar, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD. Joshua did not ask Eleazar the priest to inquire for him from God. **We need to hear the people who come to us and listen to them and their stories and we need to examine their evidences but that is not enough, still we need to inquire from God by prayers and by asking counsel from the Lord through asking counsel the church leaders whom God had placed over us.**) 15 And Joshua made peace with them, and made a league with them, to let them live: and the princes of the congregation sware unto them. (Many of the church members now a day they vent to take serious decisions without coming to the church and inquire from God. But after they make their decisions they will find out that they are in trouble.) 16 And it came to pass at the end of three days after they had made a league with them, that they heard that they were their neighbours, and that they dwelt among them. (Most of those who take independent decision they will face troubles and problems from the wrong decision that they had taken). 17 And the children of Israel journeyed, and came unto their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, and Chephirah, and Beeroth, and Kirjathearim. 18 And the children of Israel smote them not, because the princes of the congregation had sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation murmured against the princes. 19 But all the princes said unto all the congregation, We have sworn unto them by the LORD God of Israel: now therefore we may not touch them. 20 This we will do to them; we will even let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath which we sware unto them. 21 And the princes said unto them, Let them live; but let them be hewers of wood and drawers of water unto all the congregation; as the princes had promised them. 22 And Joshua called for them, and he spake unto them, saying, Wherefore have ye beguiled us, saying, We are very far from you; when ye dwell among us? 23 Now therefore ye are cursed, and there shall none of you be freed from being bondmen, and hewers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God. 24 And they answered Joshua, and said, Because it was certainly told thy servants, how that the LORD thy God commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land, and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you, therefore we were sore afraid of our lives because of you, and have done this thing. 25 And now, behold, we are in thine hand: as it seemeth good and right unto thee to do unto us, do. 26 And so did he unto them, and delivered them out of the hand of the children of Israel, that they slew them not. 27 And Joshua made them that day hewers of wood and drawers of water for the congregation, and for the altar of the LORD, even unto this day, in the place which he*

***should choose.” (Joshua 9:1-27 KJV) \* After you make your own decision, what will be only left for you is to face the consequences of your own wrong decision. \* Every head of a family is like Joshua who is leading his family, but he needs to be connected to the church and be willing to come and open up the challenges that he is facing and the decisions that he need to take.*** Certain decisions like changing a job, looking for the future study plan, marriage and finding the right partner, buying and selling land and properties, buying a car, moving a considerable amount of money, and the rest, the brethren who are facing such they needed to come and open up to the church to help them to find out the will of God and the perfect decision that they needed to take in order to move into the next step of life.

About the Urim and Thummim which were in the breastplate of judgment of the high priest, they were the same with the twelve stones; and it is observable that where the stones are mentioned nothing is said of the Urim and Thummim, and where the Urim and Thummim are observed, no notice is taken of the stones. Let us read the following Scriptures that speak about them: ***“6 And they wrought onyx stones inclosed in ouches of gold, graven, as signets are graven, with the names of the children of Israel. 7 And he put them on the shoulders of the ephod, that they should be stones for a memorial to the children of Israel; as the LORD commanded Moses. 8 And he made the breastplate of cunning work, like the work of the ephod; of gold, blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen. 9 It was foursquare; they made the breastplate double: a span was the length thereof, and a span the breadth thereof, being doubled. 10 And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this was the first row. 11 And the second row, an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. 12 And the third row, a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. 13 And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings. 14 And the stones were according to the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet, every one with his name, according to the twelve tribes.” (Exodus 39:6-14 KJV) “6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water. 7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith. 8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.” (Leviticus 8:6-8 KJV)*** By the Urim and the Thummim, the stones that are placed on the breastplate of the priest, the priest was essentially asking God prayer to give the answer to the request of the man who is approaching God and seeking His will. The use of these was to have the names of the children of Israel engraved upon them, and so be borne on the heart of Aaron, the priest, when he go into the holy place, as is here said of the Urim and Thummim they are on the breastplate; and that consultation might be made by them in matters of moment of difficulties. ***What can be understood with such arrangement that the personal decision of each and every member of the church is not independent to the rest of the congregations of the Lord because their lives are linked with one destiny and one direction of the Lord, and that personal decision is linked with the interest and the destiny of the whole congregation of the Israelites.***

The most probable reason behind linking the individual's decision with the rest of the members of the body of the congregation and bound them to take and implement that decision with the knowledge of the rest of the people of God, is that to combat the

selfishness of the individuals that are driven by their selfishness to take decisions which are independent from other people interest and contrary to the will of God. Paul said to the Philippians the following: ***“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” (Philippians 2:4 KJV)*** Everyone of you should not look only to his own interest but to the interest of others and especially the whole interest of the church and the ministry of the Lord when you are taking a decision; that it should not affect and contradict the plan and the will of God to that individual member and to the rest of the body of His church.

Paul also told them the following: ***“19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.” (Philippians 2:19-21 KJV)*** Paul wanted to send to them Timotheus to know about their situation and that will refresh him as if he himself was going to visit them. He told them that no one can do that well except Timotheus, because all they were looking into their own interest, and their own will and their own benefit, but not the things of God. ***So here is the same reason why God linked the decision of the individuals with the rest of the body of Christ, His church, is to restrain those who are selfish who are not willing to restrain themselves from taking decisions that are contrary to Christ's will and interest.***

Any individual when he makes a decision his decision will have effect and impact on the life of the congregation of the Lord, and with the interest of the Lord, that is why the church, the priest in the Old Testament with the breastplate, and the church leaders and the offices of the church in the New Testament, the pastor, the teacher, the prophet, the evangelist, and the workers of the Apostle ministry need to be part of that particular decision.

From my experience when individual taking decisions without asking the church to help them in seeking God's will and in giving them the right advice, the reason behind that because they are non-willing to follow the will of God and are motivated by their pride, selfishness and the lack of the fear of God in their lives, but they are unaware of the consequences of such reckless decisions, and they will be the first people who are to be hurt for their wrong decisions.

***My dear and beloved:*** Come now to God in humility and repent to renounce all your sins, your selfishness and your pride, independence from God and from His ways.

***Do not let lies control you. Don't say that I have the Holy Spirit and I don't need to come to the church and ask advice in taking my decision. Devil I rebuke you right now in the name of Jesus; go away from God's church.*** Joshua was filled with the Spirit of wisdom but still he needed to come to Eleazar the priest for decision making. You must realize that if you disobey God and take your own decision, then you are the first one to be affected.

Examine yourselves now in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, so you can discern your mistakes and the wrong doings that you did against yourselves and against God, against others and against the church. Also be willing to bear the responsibilities of what you did wrong and the wrong decisions that you had taken; and as you do that the Lord shall help you and relief you and guide you and will restore you back to do His will.

Now come to the Lord in repentance, committing yourself once again to the principles you learned today in this message.

- Commit yourself to be willing to humble down, and be transparent and open your problems and the struggles that you are passing through to the church.
- Commit yourself to open to the church what critical decision that you are about to take.
- Commit yourself to be willing to do the will of God and the good plan that he has for you.
- Commit yourself to do what we give you from advices and the instruction that we receive from God the Holy Spirit.

**My prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the teaching that I received today from your Word of how to take the right decision and to live according to your will.*

*Now confess and renounce your sins. Renounce the sin of pride, ego, selfishness, the sin of doing your own will and plan, and your non willingness to open up to the church your struggles and what are the critical decisions that you are taking in your life, and your non willingness to obey the church and our instructions to you. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord I commit yourself to work with you and your church in the way to be transparent with the leaders of the church, willing to open up to them the critical issues that I am passing through. Lord I am willing to be obedient to the instruction that they will give me and they will guide me to do your will in my life.*

*Lord help me, give me discernment and discretion to take the right decision in this matter \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and who are willing to apply the instructions that we learned today in their lives. Lord bless them, protect them and provide their needs, and help them to continue to serve you and to live their lives unto you. Lord help us to guide them and to give them the right advice that come from your Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.*

*Lord bless us as a church and help us to go on directed by you to do the work of yours and your will. Lord give us discernment and enable us to discern and see the deception of Satan and the deceptions of those who live in lies and who try to deceive us. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and serve you. Lord help us to go and evangelize reaching new people, making new disciples, training new workers, and planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord bless us and enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

How to Take the Right Decision Part 2. Deuteronomy 34:9. Numbers 27:18-23. Joshua 9:1-27. Exodus 39:6-14. Leviticus 8:6-8. Philippians 2:4. Philippians 2:19-21.

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