

How to Take the Right Decision Part 3

The Bible tell us about the differences between two kinds of people one who will get the church leaders involved in his decision making and the other who decide independently and without consulting the church leaders. The two good examples of that are King Saul who acted independently and King David who was relying in his decision making on the church leaders.

There was an occasion where King Saul was put in a war with the Philistines, this we can read in *1 Samuel 14*, “*1 Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father. 2 And Saul tarried in the uttermost part of Gibeah under a pomegranate tree which is in Migron: and the people that were with him were about six hundred men; 3 And Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod. And the people knew not that Jonathan was gone. 4 And between the passages, by which Jonathan sought to go over unto the Philistines' garrison, there was a sharp rock on the one side, and a sharp rock on the other side: and the name of the one was Bozez, and the name of the other Seneh. 5 The forefront of the one was situate northward over against Michmash, and the other southward over against Gibeah. 6 And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few. 7 And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. 8 Then said Jonathan, Behold, we will pass over unto these men, and we will discover ourselves unto them. 9 If they say thus unto us, Tarry until we come to you; then we will stand still in our place, and will not go up unto them. 10 But if they say thus, Come up unto us; then we will go up: for the LORD hath delivered them into our hand: and this shall be a sign unto us. 11 And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. 12 And the men of the garrison answered Jonathan and his armourbearer, and said, Come up to us, and we will shew you a thing. And Jonathan said unto his armourbearer, Come up after me: for the LORD hath delivered them into the hand of Israel. 13 And Jonathan climbed up upon his hands and upon his feet, and his armourbearer after him: and they fell before Jonathan; and his armourbearer slew after him. 14 And that first slaughter, which Jonathan and his armourbearer made, was about twenty men, within as it were an half acre of land, which a yoke of oxen might plow. 15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling. 16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another. 17 Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there. 18 And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel. 19 And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw*

thine hand. 20 And Saul and all the people that were with him assembled themselves, and they came to the battle: and, behold, every man's sword was against his fellow, and there was a very great discomfiture.” (1 Samuel 14:1-20 KJV) We read in verse 3 that “*Ahiah, the son of Ahitub, Ichabod's brother, the son of Phinehas, the son of Eli, the LORD's priest in Shiloh, wearing an ephod.”* So here the priest was present with Saul the leader to help him to take the decision whether to go to engage in battle with the Philistines or to refrain. That was in harmony to what God had commanded Moses in *Numbers 27*, that Joshua the leader who was his successor should stand before the priest to take for him the decision 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)*

God had put you in a church and under leaders so they will help you to take the right decision in your life and especially you need that in certain situations which are so critical.

About Saul let us read what later on took place around him in that battle, “*16 And the watchmen of Saul in Gibeah of Benjamin looked; and, behold, the multitude melted away, and they went on beating down one another. 17 Then said Saul unto the people that were with him, Number now, and see who is gone from us. And when they had numbered, behold, Jonathan and his armourbearer were not there. 18 And Saul said unto Ahiah, Bring hither the ark of God. For the ark of God was at that time with the children of Israel.” (1 Samuel 14:16-18 KJV)* Here Saul when received the report of the watchman that the enemy was melting away he called the priest to inquire of God about what decision to take. But let us read what Saul did, “*And it came to pass, while Saul talked unto the priest, that the noise that was in the host of the Philistines went on and increased: and Saul said unto the priest, Withdraw thine hand.” (1 Samuel 14:19 KJV)* Saul did not wait for the answer of God through the priest, but when he saw the enemy melting away he told the priest, who was raising his hand and asking God to give him the right decision, “*Withdraw thine hand.”* And the meaning of that behavior of Saul toward the priest was that he did not need his decision, and that it was clear for Saul that he can decide by himself.

Although it was obvious that God was giving the Israelites the victory, but Saul needed not to behave in this way but to respect and wait upon the decision of the priest. The same for many now who are tempted to go ahead with their own decision and they will say when you question them, ‘Why should I ask the church, I can decide for myself and it is a clear issue.’

Listen and heed: Even if it is clear decision, the church still should get involved because you might be deceived and your independent decision and attitude may impart troubles to you and to others with you.

As well as, the behavior of Saul was incorrect when he wanted to direct the priest of what he needed to do when he told him. *“Withdraw thine hand.”* This represents disrespect and insolent behavior against God by doing such to the priest that God had put to help him to lead. As well as such behavior represent the belittling of Saul to the value of the priest of God in his life. These are negative things against what God had ordained. **There are certain people who put aside the church and the leaders of the church while they are taking their critical decisions, but they are not aware that they are rejecting God and His blessing that He brings into their lives through the life of the church and the leaders of church with the input they add into their lives.**

The gap between Saul and the priests of God continued and became big especially after God anointed David to be king over Israel. Let us read the following events:

“6 When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gibeah under a tree in Ramah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;) 7 Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds; 8 That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that sheweth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or sheweth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? 9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine. 11 Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. 12 And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. 13 And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? 14 Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? 15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more. 16 And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. 17 And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD: because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD. 18 And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen ephod. 19 And Nob, the city of the priests, smote he with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword. 20 And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD's priests. 22 And David said unto Abiathar, I knew it that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the

death of all the persons of thy father's house. 23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.” (1 Samuel 22:6-23 KJV)

Saul doubted the priests that they were with David, and thought were supporting David against him. But that was not correct. **The church leaders who are honest to God and who are giving the council and the will of God to their members are never bias or favoring one over the other.**

The story that we read it shows how Saul did evil towards the priests of God and how David was obedient to God in taking and respecting the decision of the priests and asking them advices for him to apply in his lives. In verse 10 we can read, *“10 And he enquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.” (1 Samuel 22:10 KJV)* it is mentioned that David went to the priest to inquire to God from him. Also in verse 15 we can read, *“15 Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.” (1 Samuel 22:15 KJV)* that Ahimelech mentioned it was not the first time that David was inquired from God through him. In fact David asserted his position as a king as he complied with the instructions of God to stand in front of the priest to take decisions for him. *** When you humble yourself before God and before the leaders of the church then you are asserting yourself to be a child of God and you are led by Him to do the right thing. * When you behave like David then you are more secured and protected and you would receive the right decision from God and that you will be assured to take the right step in life.**

Let us read here when David went to the priest what had happened: *“1 Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee? 2 And David said unto Ahimelech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know any thing of the business whereabout I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place. 3 Now therefore what is under thine hand? give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. 4 And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. 5 And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. 6 So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. 7 Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul. 8 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. 9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.” (1 Samuel 21:11-9 KJV)* David in that setup not only received the right advice, but provision of bread for him and the men with him, and a weapon, to fight

his enemies with. Your coming to the church and the church leaders will help you to take the right decision and you will be assisted and provided by the Lord through their lives and you will be equipped with the weapons to stand firm in the battle against the power of darkness and to fight the good fight.

Saul asked his soldiers to destroy the priests of God because they assisted David, but the soldiers refused because that is against the ordinance of God and if they will do that they will know that they will not be able to get the direction from God, Beside that the priests were innocent before God and they did not do anything wrong. **The church leaders are there to help you and guide you in your life, so do not be angry or fight with them, they love you and they have concerns towards you; they are there so your life will be easier.**

When the soldiers refused to do that Saul asked Doeg to do it and that man killed all the priests, except one, Abiathar who escaped to David. Here the Lord allowed one of the priests to be saved so that David will not be without priest, and will not be without the guidance from God. God granted David his desire and rewarded him for his good attitude toward the priests. Let us read how he spoke and assured the priest who run to him, **“23 Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.” (1 Samuel 22:23 KJV)** David told him the following:

1. Abide thou with me: David welcomed the priest and gave him place to live. **Welcome the church leaders and open your heart and your life to them.**

2. Fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: David assured him not to be afraid from him. It means David assured him that he will not harm him. **Have a good will towards the leaders of the church, don't fight with them and don't persecute them.**

3. but with me thou shalt be in safeguard: David assured the priest that he will protect him and put him in safety and provide for him. *** Do your part to protect the church leaders that they can trust you and give their backs to you; and that you will endeavor also to support them in their daily needs. * We as church leaders, when people persecute us, trouble us and cause us harm, the Lord would take us to those who need us and respect us and cherish our advices and instructions to them. * Therefore be thankful to God that he allowed church leaders around you to help you and lead you in the right direction; keep and cherish such and be faithful to God and be faithful to the church and to the leaders that God is using to bless you.**

My dear and beloved: Come now to the Lord and think wisely about what you received from message. Humble yourself, repent and allow God to work in your life and be willing to comply with the instruction that you received in this message.

We as church understand our responsibility to give spiritual advices to our members to guide them into the right way, and for our members we pray that all of them to be aware that they are placed in His church and God had placed us with them to guide them into the right way of God.

Come now to God in humility and repent. Renounce all your sins; your selfishness, your pride, your independence from God and from His church, and start to commit yourself once again to the principles that you learned today in this message.

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 your Word in this message that enlightened my mind. Lord thank you for the church that you had placed me in and for the leaders that you placed in my life to help me to live for you and to take the right decision according to your will and purpose as you ordained.

Now confess and renounce your sins. Renounce your pride, the sin of independence from God and His church, the sin of having anger, disrespect and fight against the church leaders. Renounce 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, and to show respect to the church leaders that you placed with me, to love them, not to fight with them, to help them and to support them in doing the mission that you had entrusted to them to do. Lord I am willing to be obedient to the instruction that they will give me and they will guide me, in order to do your will in my life.

Lord help me, and guide me 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 I pray for them that you will protect them, guide them and provide for them. Lord lead us as a church to guide them into your ways and give them the right instruction on time. Lord lead us to support them and be a source of blessing to them.

Lord bless us as a church and guide us to draw near to you, and lead us to move to those who are loyal and who need us to help them to move and live doing your good will and plan for them. Lord give us discernment, protect us from the evil doers and take us away from those who do not honor your Word and do not appreciate that you placed us beside them to help them to know your will and walk in your ways. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and serve you. Lord go before us and help us to 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 3. 1 Samuel 14:1-20. Numbers 27:18-23. 1 Samuel 22:6-23. 1 Samuel 21:1-9.

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