

## How to Take the Right Decision Part 5

We will continue in this message to speak about how to take the right decision. From the life of King David we will learn new lessons of how to follow God and to be aware if we are in the right path that God had ordained for us to pass through or we are not.

*“1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. 2 And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife. 4 And it was told Saul that David was fled to Gath: and he sought no more again for him. 5 And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee? 6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day. 7 And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months. 8 And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt. 9 And David smote the land, and left neither man nor woman alive, and took away the sheep, and the oxen, and the asses, and the camels, and the apparel, and returned, and came to Achish. 10 And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites. 11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines. 12 And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.” (1 Samuel 27:1-12 KJV)*

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*“And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.” (1 Samuel 27:1 KJV)* As we had discussed earlier that David was anointed as king over Israel, but he was followed and threatened continually by Saul, the previous anointed king, to destroy his life. David with that pressure that he was facing and the threat of being destroyed every day he thought to himself to speedily escape from Saul into the land of the Philistines. David said: *“there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines.”* David thought, for him to escape was the best solution that he resolved to take; it seemed to him logical, reasonable and considerate and will not be opposed, but instead favored and supported by certain

points, but later on it proved the opposite. \* Therefore in our decision making we need to avoid such kind of temptations that we follow the logical, the reasonable and the considerate but we had missed the whole will of God. \* Put also in your mind that good thoughts are not always Godly thoughts, so be aware of that and shun evil.

David thought with his own understanding and with the power of his mind; and that is the temptation of many and may be for you also, but the Word of God tells us the following: *“5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.” (Proverbs 3:5-7 KJV)* The following points are the pitfalls, the deceptions or the mistakes of the logical and reasonable thinking that you may resort for and tempted to do without relying fully on God as David did and as the following:

**1. If you are under threat the first thing you need to do is to protect yourself and move away from the source of the threat:** David was followed by Saul who was moving with his whole forces to do that. Therefore David who would not afford to face him and fight with him resolved to move away from him and escaped to the land of the Philistines. David concluded it in this manner: *“and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.”* And truly in the way he thought it worked as we read here, *“4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.” (1 Samuel 27:4 KJV)* What you think may be correct and realistic in the way the people think, but that might not represent the will of God for you today to do. As we previously remembered that David inquired from God whether it is safe for him to go and rescue Keilah and the Lord approved that to him. So being in a dangerous place, does not justify your own decision to move away from the place that God wants you to stay. Be reminded also that David was told by the prophet of God to dwell in Judah, *“And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.” (1 Samuel 22:5 KJV)* Here David in his decision to leave Israel and go to the land of the Philistines, God did not speak to him to do that, neither he inquired of God; but he was deceived by his fear. Therefore, be very careful in taking certain decisions. Do not jump to conclusion without hearing from God. *“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”*

**2. When you receive a favor or privileges, and so you think that you are in the right way:** *“2 And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maach, king of Gath.” (1 Samuel 27:2)* David received favor from King Achish and received settlement there; not only he but his men and with their families, *“3 And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.” (1 Samuel 27:3)* Sure David was elated with such a favor for him and for his men from Achish. Such a privilege that you receive may confirm to you that you are doing the will of God. But later on you will see that you are in trouble as we will see the outcome of what David did.

**3. When you receive a provision and you think that God is providing for you.** David and his men received provision from Achish who gave them a separate place to live in the city of Ziklag, *“And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them*

*give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee? 6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.” (1 Samuel 27:5-6 KJV)* The reason David requested the king to give him another place to live not because he was humbling himself before Achish, but because he does not want the king to discover his real identity and what he was doing. **Be aware of this deception: That when you receive provision which is meeting your needs that does not mean that you are provided by God and that does not mean that the statement that said, When God will guide He will provide, can be applied on you.** David was sustaining his living there by doing illegal things in the land under King Achish. Such resources by illegal ways and cheatings may give you the clue that you are not in the correct path that God wants you to go through.

**4. Stability in the same condition for a considerable period of time, which makes you think that you are in the correct path.** David settled there for a good period of time, *“7 And the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was a full year and four months.” (1 Samuel 27:7 KJV)* Things were getting well, his ministry continued and with much blessings and income coming to David and his men every day, *“8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Gġzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish.” (1 Samuel 27:8-9 KJV)* They were receiving much sheep, cattle, donkeys, camels, and clothes. David also was attacking the nations that God said to destroy them. So ministry was going on well and everything for them was available in abundance. **But material blessings and increase in the ministry may not confirm to you that the decision that you made is from God or please God**

Now at this point with all these confirmations it seems that what David thought and decided was correct and had come from God. But let us continue to read and discover further truths:

**5. When you start to tell lies to cover up yourself and you think that what you are doing is the will of God.** David started to tell lies and started to teach his men to tell lies: *“10 And Achish said, Whither have ye made a road to day? And David said, Against the south of Judah, and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites. 11 And David saved neither man nor woman alive, to bring tidings to Gath, saying, Lest they should tell on us, saying, So did David, and so will be his manner all the while he dwelleth in the country of the Philistines.” (1 Samuel 27:10-11 KJV)* David could not tell that he was attacking the Philistines. David was giving wrong information to King Achish so his situation will not be discovered. David put himself in a situation that he needed to tell lies in each and every day in order to protect himself. **Now true that we should not give intelligence to the enemy, but we need to be careful that we should not put ourselves in wrong situations so we don't need to tell lies. But again it is questionable, because certain times we are put in such circumstances that we cannot declare to the enemy what we are doing and we are forced not to declare the real things.**

**6. When we are enslaved by others and we think it is the will of God for us to be in such a situation.** King Achish decided to enslave David for life, *“12 And Achish believed*

*David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for ever.” (1 Samuel 27:12 KJV)* Here David because of his lies to king Achish put himself under the bondage of non believers. It is more bearable to be under the threat of King Saul and not to be under the bondage of the non believers and their slavery into your lives. Here David was fully controlled by non believer; and so there was another power controlling him than being under God.

In 2002 God spoke to me to do certain thing, I heard God but I delayed to obey because what he asked me was something looks ugly and I was afraid to do because many would react badly because of it, but later on I obeyed and did. Now, I repented that I did not obey God immediately because I realized what He told me to do is the most suitable thing for me. **But I learned my lesson, that I will obey God and do what He is telling me even if all people would get angry with me.**

In 2018, I needed to take a certain decision after six months of fasting; I obeyed God and did it. That decision was a very ugly decision, many hated me of it and even my life was threatened because of their bad reaction of what I did. But now what I decided and did is the most accurate and blessed decision and I thank God because I took it.

David ran to Achish because he was afraid of Saul who wanted to kill him. But let us read further so we can discover what were the consequences that came upon David for the decision that he made when he decided to go and live with his wives and the men with him and their families, with Achish, *“1 And it came to pass in those days, that the Philistines gathered their armies together for warfare, to fight with Israel. And Achish said unto David, Know thou assuredly, that thou shalt go out with me to battle, thou and thy men. 2 And David said to Achish, Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do. And Achish said to David, Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.” (1 Samuel 28:1-2 KJV)* Here the situation that had happened, surely showed that Achish wanted to enslave David and made him his personal guard in what he said to him, *“Therefore will I make thee keeper of mine head for ever.”* David also was aware of that as we can read what he replied, *“Surely thou shalt know what thy servant can do.”* David said to Achish that he was his servant. David was not happy at all with the new event that he was now called to fight with the Philistines against Israel, but he cannot express his resentment against that, or refuse to go, otherwise he will be exposed himself to them. Now David and his men were put in the situation that they were called to stand with the Philistines to fight against Israel and the army of Israel. They were called to fight against God's church. So here now clear the trouble they were put themselves in. **That is the same when you make a decision with your own, and you are encouraged by a favor and a provision and the rest of the things that you are deceived with, but later on you will discover the trouble that you put yourself in.**

Initially the Israelites they asked God to give them king so that he will lead them and fight their battles against their enemies; and one of their fiercest enemy that they were facing and were afraid from was the Philistines. Now David was anointed as king after Saul in order to fight Israel's battles against their enemies of whom most commonly the Philistines. Now David with the decision that he made to protect himself from the hands of Saul found himself in a position that he is serving the devil and was against God and against His calling and against what God asked him to do of ministry. And here if David would enter this battle and fight against Israel he will be disqualified from being a king over Israel.



Certain decision you take in your life it seems so logical and so realistic, that it will bring even good outcome at the beginning, as we had noticed here with King David, but later on it will prove that such a decision was the lies of devil and destruction will come into your life.

The good decision that you had taken was not a good decision because it was not of God and you did not enquire of God about it, as that what David did and the mistake that he trapped himself in. He relied on his own thoughts and understanding. David always used to enquire of God before any decision he was taking. He goes to the priest and asks him to inquire of God for him. But in this decision he failed to ask God's will and he did not go to the priest to inquire of him by the Ephod. Many of you take decision without proper inquiring from God and take the approval of the church that God had placed you in. Many of you go with your own plan and arrangement without coming back to God and to us as church leaders for inquiring and God's approval. You don't want to come because you don't like to hear from us, 'Stop, Don't do it.' That is why so much mishaps, troubles and heartaches you are going through.

God had mercy on David; He did not allow him to go with the Philistines to fight against Israel, because if David would do that, he will loss his ministry and the post of being a king over Israel. God had mercy on David and save him from this problem that would disqualify him to be a king. God may use people, non believer or even His church to stop you from doing wrong. Do not consider that a hindrance but it is God's mercy to save you from big troubles. I had previously stopped people from doing their own will, and they got resented and angry with me, but later on it proved that what I did with them was the correct thing.

Let us read what had happened later on to David:

***“1 Now the Philistines gathered together all their armies to Aphek: and the Israelites pitched by a fountain which is in Jezreel. 2 And the lords of the Philistines passed on by hundreds, and by thousands: but David and his men passed on in the rereward with Achish. (Here David and his men were forced to go to fight against Israel. See here, how the decision that seems good because it is reasonable at the beginning, how it will be so drastic at the end because it is not coming from God. David was in a very painful condition as if he was caught. If he will go forward he is against God and if he will retreat he will be discovered and destroyed by the Philistines. He was hard headed, because the prophet of God had told him to go back and to stay in Judah but he left Judah. Here he needed the mercy of God to be rescued.) 3 Then said the princes of the Philistines, What do these Hebrews here? And Achish said unto the princes of the Philistines, Is not this David, the servant of Saul the king of Israel, which hath been with me these days, or these years, and I have found no fault in him since he fell unto me unto this day? 4 And the princes of the Philistines were wroth with him; and the princes of the Philistines said unto him, Make this fellow return, that he may go again to his place which thou hast appointed him, and let him not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he be an adversary to us: for wherewith should he reconcile himself unto his master? should it not be with the heads of these men? (Here God showed mercy to David when the leaders of the Philistines army refused him to go with them for war, because they did not trust in***

him, and did not want him to go with them fearing that he will support the army of God. For they said,) ***5 Is not this David, of whom they sang one to another in dances, saying, Saul slew his thousands, and David his ten thousands? (They got angry also with Achish who brought him with him and who planned to use him as his personal guard. That even took place to save David from sinning against God and saved him from losing the kingship that God gave to him.) 6 Then Achish called David, and said unto him, Surely, as the LORD liveth, thou hast been upright, and thy going out and thy coming in with me in the host is good in my sight: for I have not found evil in thee since the day of thy coming unto me unto this day: nevertheless the lords favour thee not. 7 Wherefore now return, and go in peace, that thou displease not the lords of the Philistines. (Here Achish explained to David that he needed to go back for he is unfavoured by the lords of the Philistines.) 8 And David said unto Achish, But what have I done? and what hast thou found in thy servant so long as I have been with thee unto this day, that I may not go fight against the enemies of my lord the king? 9 And Achish answered and said to David, I know that thou art good in my sight, as an angel of God: notwithstanding the princes of the Philistines have said, He shall not go up with us to the battle. (David pretended that he was upset with that decision, but sure from inside he was relieved and sure he realized the mercy of God and that God had saved his life from such calamity that he put himself in. He and his men were relieved from fighting against their brethren.) 10 Wherefore now rise up early in the morning with thy master's servants that are come with thee: and as soon as ye be up early in the morning, and have light, depart. 11 So David and his men rose up early to depart in the morning, to return into the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.” (1 Samuel 29:1-11 KJV)*** Ultimately he and the men with him sent back from the battle field. But that was not the end of what he did wrong, God will not leave him like that, but He will also discipline him for the wrong that he did.

Now let me speak to you. Are you in the same situation and position of that of David and his men? Have you made a wrong move, and now you are in trouble and you need to correct yourself? Be humble and repent and be willing to accept your sins and wrong move. Otherwise you may continue but you will disqualify yourself from serving God, and find yourself fighting against God. Humble down, forsake your pride, accept your mistakes and repent of your sins and wrong move and correct yourself, so that you can be restored back to serve the Lord and to the ministry that He had assigned you to do.

***My dear and beloved:*** Let us now ponder on the message we received and find out if we are really doing things based on our own understand and reasoning or we are fearing God and listening to Him and move after we are sure of His instructions. \* Don't be deceived by material blessings, smooth processing, or facilities, because all these may not be from God; sometimes even the devil gives material things to deceive you and lead you into the wrong path. \* If you are relying on your own mind and wisdom then you need to repent and come back to God and ask advice from God and from His church that God had placed you in so that you can clearly see what God is leading you to do. \* Now as we are preparing ourselves for the second coming of Christ, the time for you now to repent and seek God and put yourselves in the right place that God wants you to be. Don't put yourselves under non believers and allow people like Achish to enslave you.

Let us pray.

**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 showed me clearly the pitfalls, mistakes and the deceptions of the devil that I may come cross in my life and lead me to do wrong decisions and got wrong steps.

Repent by renouncing your sins, your wrong decisions and wrong steps. Renounce your fear of man, renounce your relying on your own understanding and wisdom. Renounce your worldliness and your non willingness to suffer. Renounce that you are doing your own will and going on independently away from God and away from His church and away from us as your leaders. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins and short comings \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to the principles that I learned from this message. Lord I commit myself to seek you and inquire from you and your will by opening my trouble to the church that you placed me in. Lord have mercy on me as you had mercy on David and take me from the following troubles that I placed myself in \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord thank you for all my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and humble themselves to you and showed their willingness to abide with your instructions. Lord have mercy on them and take them out from such troubles. Lord provide their needs and help them in their lives, and support them to come out from the troubles that they placed themselves in.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to teach and preach your Word and the mandates that you had placed on us to do. Lord give us discernment and lead us always to take the right decision that goes along your will. We come against all the work of the devil and we rebuke it in the name of Jesus. Lord protect us and provide all our needs to continue to serve you. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve you, to evangelize, making new disciples, training new workers, and to plant 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 5. Be aware of taking wrong decisions. 1 Samuel 27:1-12. 1 Samuel 22:5. 1 Samuel 28:1-2. 1 Samuel 29:1-11.

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