

# SEEK PROFITABLE DECISIONS

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In the Christian life, many of us at first, don't realize what the most profitable decisions really are and consequently desire many things in preference to these; but if "we walk in the light as He is, in the light," and follow the teachings of His Word, thru the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we will come to the place where we will see what the profitable decisions really are.

The first profitable decision is found in Matthew 6:33, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

To start right, we need to be sure the foundation is set right, if the foundation is not right, it will be hard to meet things Scripturally and our whole structure will sooner or later fall. We must see to it that our hearts are clean and pure and kept so by God's power and not tolerate anything in our lives that is contrary to God's will.

Of ourselves, we cannot do this, but God has made a great provision, a great sacrifice that has taken away our sins and given us the right and privilege to have the full power of God to work in us to "will and do of His good pleasure." The very life of Christ Himself, the very spirit that controlled Him and enabled Him to meet things right, is to come in us.

We are to be sure that we have really and truly confessed and forsaken every sin and that we are not tolerating anything contrary to God's will, and then to truly believe that God has forgiven and cleansed us of all sin and unrighteousness. When our lives are surrendered to Him, and the Holy Spirit has taken possession of us, we have become "crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me."

This attitude must be taken and maintained as a start, or a foundation. If we allow Satan to make us think we are not clean and pure and have not been cleansed from all unrighteousness or that God is not dwelling in us, we will not be able to live right nor to get the great profit that God has for us in His Truth.

Paul said in 1st Timothy 4:8, "*Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*"

That means godliness is profitable to everything that pertains to this life and also eternal life. Solomon gave us the same thought of how profitable it was in Proverbs 4:23, "*Keep thine heart with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life.*"

In other words, we are to let that be our first and foremost thought, to see to it that neither sin nor Satan has any foothold in our minds or hearts, and that God has full control of us. This is to be by faith, not by sight or feeling.

We are to believe that after we have confessed and forsaken our sins, we are forgiven and cleansed and if we have presented these lives "a living sacrifice," we are to believe they have become "holy and acceptable," and that we have become united to Jesus Christ thru His resurrection life and power.

1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

Romans 12:1-2, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*"

This position is to be taken and maintained in God's strength alone and as we take this position of a pure heart and fulness of the Spirit by faith, will have no difficulty in meeting things right.

It must be our highest aim to make profitable decisions, be willing to meet things right, meet every issue of life according to God's will. We owe our loyalty to God, our Creator, and Purchaser, and we show it when we meet things according to His will, it is always for our greatest good and profit.

That is profitable all the way through and the way to obtain those blessings is explained in Matthew 6:33, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*"

That includes health and protection, food, clothing and everything we need or desire in this life. All the resources of Heaven are at our disposal to see that we are taken care of and have deliverances and victories of every kind. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we meet things according to the Scriptures. It has promise of the life to come, for the Word says in Matthew 5:8, "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*"

Of all the profitable and valuable things in either time or eternity, is to see God in person and live with Him forever. That, in itself, would be an all-sufficient source of perfect happiness and blessing. To be sure that our heart is made pure and kept pure by faith, is the most profitable decision. As soon as we take that attitude, all that God has in His great heart of love for us, will flow in unhindered.

If we just meet our troubles by holding our ground, not worrying about them, but leave them in God's loving hands, they will turn out to be profitable. God can turn the greatest troubles into the greatest blessings we have ever had. The meanest things that may be said and done against us will be the most profitable, if met right.

With us, it does not make any difference whether our troubles are in the home or elsewhere. It is the best thing that could happen to us if we will take the strength and grace from God to meet it right instead of resenting it; if we let the God of Heaven have the job, as the Word says--"*Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath.*"

We are not to make a move of any kind, regardless of what is said or done to us, but leave it in the hands of God, for He says in Romans 12:19, "*Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*"

The minute we make a move to deliver ourselves out of any problem, we have become overcome by that problem, and to that extent we have taken another step out of God's will. When it is met right and left in God's hands, we have taken a big stride toward Heaven, as well as rich blessings here. To meet things in God's way and to keep our hearts clean means perfect health to our bodies. Perfect health and a clean heart walk hand in hand throughout the entire Bible.

Proverbs 4:20-22, "*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*"

The most profitable decision is to see that we not only start right with a pure heart, but that it is kept pure, by believing the Scriptures which tell us so. It is only those who "endure to the end shall be saved," and "if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

"Now the just shall live by faith:" This is done by believing God and meeting circumstances in His way. Hebrews 10:38,39, "*But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but those that believe to the saving of the soul.*"

Another profitable decision is found in Hebrews 12:1, "*Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*"

This means if we are in an unscriptural position concerning anything, we are to lay it aside and get on Scriptural grounds in everything. To "lay aside every weight," would be anything that would stand between us and God's will.

"*Let us run with patience* (that word "patience" means "endurance") *the race that is set before us.*" We are to keep our hearts and minds centered on God Himself—His will and Word, His character and loving ways; keep our eyes on Him.

There isn't any more profitable decision, outside of keeping our hearts clean than being occupied with God. Satan's plan is to keep us occupied with many worthless things in this life, to keep our mind and heart on anything but God, just as he kept Peter's mind on the wind and waves. Just to the extent that he succeeds will we go down and be hindered and unhappy. We will never be happy until we see and know God as He is. He is the only source of happiness.

When we start in the Christian life, we are occupied with everything else but God, what we are, how faithful we are; but sooner or later we will find there is no profit in considering ourselves at all. We will begin to consider ourselves less and less, and as revelations of God begin to appear to us, and we get insight into His character, we will find the consideration of God and His character is so profitable that we will have a hungering and thirst, as David said, "after the living God."

Psalm 42:1, "*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*"

Then we have a similar thought expressed in 2nd Corinthians 3:18, "*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*"

As we look to Him and grasp His character, His perfect love and tenderness, His love to His enemies, His forbearance, His patience, wisdom and power, then it says we are changed into the same image. That is very valuable to know--that we can be changed into the very image of God. When we look at ourselves, we are changed into the image of self. When we look to God, His image begins to be stamped on us.

The 27th Psalm was written at a time of trouble for David, and that trouble was caused by his own doings. His son, Absalom, had rebelled and gathered nearly all the tribes of Israel to battle against David, but in the battle that followed, Absalom's army was defeated by David's men and Absalom killed. David's deliverance came as he met this rebellion in God's way and then was restored to his throne.

Psalm 27:1-6, *The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*

*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord."*

It is so wonderful to know that we do not have to worry when Satan is using somebody to harm us. If we get worried or upset and then begin to use human efforts, we place ourselves in a position to have Satan harass us, but if we will hold steady in allowing God to fight for us and rest in peace, we will have the same testimony as David. (Verse 3) "*Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.*

We need to take particular notice to the fourth verse--"*One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.*"

This was the supreme object of his life. He had been thru some perilous places and had even fallen into sin, but through it all he was brought to the place where he saw that the most profitable, the most interesting and enjoyable thing, was to behold the beauty of the Lord.

David had many wonderful experiences and enjoyed rich blessings. He was head of the greatest kingdom in the world; he enjoyed great spiritual blessing and victory and won many battles, but after reviewing the experiences of his life, he came to the conclusion that his greatest desire, the most needful and profitable thing to make life successful and peaceful, was to get his eyes on God and to be occupied with Him and His character.

David had begun to learn this lesson in his early experience for when he was in the cave of Adullam, pursued by Saul, he said in Psalm 34:4-6, "*I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles."*

In Isaiah 26:3, we find this verse, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee.*

It is a positive fact that we are filled with doubt and despair when we look at ourselves, our experiences, our difficulties and our temptations. It is also true that one good look at God fills us with quietness and confidence. No matter what difficulty we have, what temptation or trial we are in, when we get our eyes on God, we will get deliverance immediately.

We are to remember the two most profitable decisions in life. First, we are to see to it that our hearts are made clean and kept clean. Secondly, we are to give our attention to, and have our mind occupied with God, and keep looking unto Him, beholding His beauty, His great power and tender mercy.



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