

Wisdom for Life: How do I decide?

Proverbs 16:1-9 (and others)

Slides from Nick Butcher's sermon at the evening service, Sunday 21st June 2026

Why is decision making hard?

FOBO

Fear of better options



De vulpe et catto.

4 Principles for wise decision making:

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1. God's in control, not you

There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:9

Many are the plans in a person's heart,
but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

Proverbs 19:21

Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring.

Proverbs 27:1

4 Principles for wise decision making:

1. God's in control, not you

4 Principles for wise decision making:

1. God's in control, not you

2. But you still make decisions

Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.

Proverbs 4:26

4 Principles for wise decision making:

1. God's in control, not you

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4 Principles for wise decision making:

1. God's in control, not you
2. But you still make decisions
3. So decide wisely

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A. Fear God first

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 9:10

3. So decide wisely

A. Fear God first

Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and he will establish your plans.

Proverbs 16:3

3. So decide wisely

A. Fear God first

B. Think well

Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.

Proverbs 4:26

The plans of the diligent lead to profit
as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5

3. So decide wisely

A. Fear God first

B. Think well

3. So decide wisely

A. Fear God first

B. Think well

C. Get wise advice

For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 11:14

Plans fail for lack of counsel,
but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans are established by seeking advice;
so if you wage war, obtain guidance.

Proverbs 20:18

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4 Principles for wise decision making:

1. God's in control, not you
2. But you still make decisions
3. So decide wisely
4. And trust that God's in control

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.

Proverbs 16:9