

Making Wise Decisions

“And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and **behaved himself wisely**; and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul’s servants.”

“And David **behaved himself wisely in all his ways**; and the LORD was with him. Wherefore when Saul saw that **he behaved himself very wisely**, he was afraid of him.”

“Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that **David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.**”

I Samuel 18:5,14-15,30

<u>Fleece</u> (or circumstances)	<u>Feelings</u> (or heart)	<u>Fortune</u> (or success)	<u>Fad</u> (or popularity)	<u>Faith</u> (or Bible wisdom)
Gideon (Judges 6:36-40) He knew God’s will, but wanted signs	Amnon (II Samuel 13:1-16) Love and hate caused sinful choices	Lot (Genesis 13:10-11) He chose riches and lost everything	Saul (I Sam 15:19-26) He pleased people and lost Israel	Abraham (Hebrews 11:8) He went to a new land by faith only
Looking for <i>signs</i> or outside indicators Choosing by <i>circumstances</i> or <i>Fate</i> Valuing <i>results</i> others have achieved Exalting <i>coincidences</i> or <i>chance</i> events Horoscopes, Ouija boards, or psychics	Allows <i>emotions</i> to influence decisions Choosing by <i>intuition</i> or <i>infatuation</i> Also <i>sentimentality</i> , <i>lust</i> , <i>pity</i> , or <i>desire</i> . Follow your <i>heart</i> ? Be true to <i>yourself</i> ? I have <i>peace</i> about it? It just <i>feels right</i> ?	Thinking <i>selfishly</i> for short-term benefit Choosing for an <i>advantage</i> or your <i>gain</i> We call it <i>ambition</i> , <i>covetousness</i> , <i>greed</i> <i>Pride</i> , <i>self-love</i> , <i>discontent</i> , <i>emulation</i> It is making choices to promote yourself	The desire <i>to be accepted</i> by others The world’s <i>peer pressure</i> to conform <i>Love of family/friends</i> to compromise Valuing <i>trends</i> above ancient landmarks The fear of standing alone traps men	<i>Trusts God</i> and His Word absolutely <i>Believes God</i> is and He rewards seekers <i>Bible is perfect</i> manual for life choices Reject <i>signs, feelings, fortune, or fads</i> Bible alone to answer every question
<i>Prosperity of fools</i> deceives (Pr 1:32) <i>Fear or worry</i> are distracting (Ec 11:4) <i>God’s silence</i> can fool you (Ps 50:21) Pagans look to the heavens (Jer 10:2) God condemns all such (Deut 18:9-14) Israel took the ark to battle (I Sam 4:3) Enemies changed locale (I Kgs 20:23)	Only fools trust their <i>hearts</i> (Pr 28:26) The <i>heart</i> deceives above all (Jer 17:9) What <i>feels</i> right is wrong (Prov 14:12) We must hate all but God (Luke 14:26) Corinth disliked judging (I Cor 5:1-2) Hate date feelings (Pr 6:23-25; 31:30) Chasten against any crying (Pro 19:18)	Earthly is <i>belly worship</i> (Phil 3:18-19) <i>Contentment</i> is great gain (I Tim 6:5-6) <i>Love of money</i> corrupts (I Tim 6:6-10) Losing is winning (Matt 16:25; 19:29) Liberality brings returns (Pr 11:24-26) Eve, Achan, Ahab, and Demas all failed World’s friend or God’s enemy (Ja 4:4)	Bad <i>friends</i> hurt (I Cor 15:33; Pr 13:20) Following a <i>multitude</i> is sin (Ex 23:2) <i>Fear of man</i> brings a snare (Pr 29:25) Aaron, Josaphat, Pilate, Festus, Peter Joshua, Caleb, and Daniel stood strong Avoid fools (Pr 1:10-15; 4:14-15; 14:7) Family must be second (Matt 10:34-37)	God is <i>better than your heart</i> (Pr 3:5-6) God is <i>better than a fortune</i> (He 11:26) God is <i>better than a fleece</i> (Luke 5:5-7) God is <i>better than a fad</i> (Ps 73:25-26) Faith pleases God well (He 11:1-2,5-6) Scripture is final (Ps 119:128; Is 8:20) David trusted God (I Sa 26:6-12; 30:6)

David had **fleece** of Saul in his hands twice, with **feelings** of revenge, for the **fortune** of the throne God had given him, with the **fad** of nephews begging (I Sam 24 & 26)!
 What tempted Joseph when Mrs. Potiphar solicited him? The **feelings** of a beautiful woman and the **fortune** of wonderful employment, but he chose **faith** (Gen 39:7-9).
 What tempted Abraham when God asked for Isaac as a burnt offering? The **feelings** for his son by Sarah and the **fortune** of his promised seed in Israel (Heb 11:17-19).
 What tempted Eli when he knew his sons were committing gross sacrilege? The **feelings** against killing his own sons (I Sam 3:13). But Asa was better (II Chr 15:16).
 What tempted Judas Iscariot? The **fortune** of making extra money, for he was a thief (John 12:6). He may have believed that Jesus would easily escape (Matt 27:3-4).
 What tempted Moses to smite the rock rather than speak to it? His unusual angry **feelings** at the rebellion of the complaining Israelites (Num 20:7-13; Ps 106:32-33).
 What tempted Jesus in His temptations by Satan? His hungry **feelings** by the bread; His royal **fortune** by the world; and His identity **fleece** by the temple (Luke 4:1-13).
 What is the temptation of not getting a job interview a month into a job search? We are tempted by **fleece** that God has ruled against it and **feelings** that prayer is vain.
 Should you cast lots about attending church Sunday? Reading your Bible tomorrow? Choosing between a godly and ungodly spouse? What is this error? A **fleece**.
 What is happening when a person praying about a car they should not have finds one for sale nearby? The Lord is using **fleece** to test that person’s faith and obedience.
 What if you met a perfect unbeliever by chance, loved each other much, with very rich parents, which everyone adored? God is testing you by all four errors (II Cor 6:14).
 What if you chanced into a job that others craved, was just what you wanted to do, and paid more than any other, but required compromise? Again, God is testing you.
 What do we say about the Bible, if we use a **fleece** in things clearly stated? We despise it and tempt God by asking for direction in a matter already answered in writing.

What do we conclude? Reject fleeces, feelings, fortune, fads; choose your desired way by Scripture and trust God for details (Pr 16:9; Jas 4:13-15; Ru 2:3; Ps 127:1-2).
 If we use a fleece, we tempt God; if we follow feelings, we can be deceived; if we seek worldly gain, we will lose our lives. Faith trusts God over any man or all men.
 What do we conclude? Obeying God and seeking His kingdom first are essential basics to decisions (Ps 37:4; 128:1-4; Pr 28:13; Eccl 12:13-14; Hag 2:5-11; Matt 6:33).
 If two options are equal in light of Scripture, what process makes the final decision? The liberty of your desire, a multitude of counselors, and maybe a prayerful fleece!