

# Decision Making

From the Book of Proverbs

# RECOGNIZE the need for divine insight

- \* Prov. 2:6 – For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.
- \* Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

# RESEARCH the issue

- \* Prov. 18:13, 17 – He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.
- \* Prov. 18:17 – He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him.

Ask Questions

Seek Counsel

Do Research

Explore Alternatives

# RESIST pressure

- \* Prov. 19:2 – Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.
- \* Prov. 21:5 – The thoughts of the diligent tend only toward plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Time Pressure

Fear Pressure

Peer Pressure

# REVIEW motives

- \* Prov. 16:2 – All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.
- \* Prov. 20:9 – Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

Be careful of your blind spots

Consider the cautions of others

Ask yourself “why” and answer honestly

# REMEMBER the past

- \* Prov. 26:11 – As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.
- \* Prov. 17:10 – A reproof entereth more into a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool.

Analyze past mistakes in similar circumstances

Know your patterns and be willing to break them

Never get bit by the same dog twice

# RETAIN Godly counsel

- \* Prov. 11:14 – Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.
- \* Prov. 15:22 – Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.
- \* Prov. 20:18 – Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war

Seek good advice from knowledgeable people

For important decisions, get many perspectives

# REFLECT upon reproof

- \* Prov. 10:17 – He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction; but he that refuseth reproof erreth.
- \* Prov. 16:25 – There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.
- \* Prov. 27:6 – Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Listen to those who challenge your ideas

Genuine friends tell you what you need to hear



# REALIZE the consequences

- \* Prov. 14:1 – Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.
- \* Prov. 14:15 – The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.
- \* Prov. 27:12 – A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.

Look beyond the immediate to the ramifications

Every decision leads to others