



Pt 4: **By Following His Teachings**

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Connecting with God - *“Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way.”*

It is through the Bible that God speaks to mankind. He gives wisdom and instruction for every circumstance of life. The Bible contains daily inspiration and the ability to inspire us regardless of what circumstances we may find ourselves in.

Psalms 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

God’s Word can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won’t stumble and fumble in the dark making wrong decisions.

Practical Christianity is applying God’s instructions on a daily basis!

Psalms 119:130 *The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.*

Proverbs 4:10-14

What is the key to making wise decisions as a Christian? - **Listening to God!**

Proverbs 2:9 *If you listen to me, you will know what is right, just, and fair. You will know what you should do.*

Proverbs 4:20-22

Four practical tests that we can use to help us receive guidance from the Word of God that will help us make wise decisions.

1. The Initial Test

We have to decide what or who is going to be our ultimate authority. It really boils down to two choices: it’s either ‘*God’s Word*’ or what ‘*society dictates.*’

Psalms 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path.*

God’s Word will illuminate to us what is the right decision to make.

2. The Integrity Test

Proverbs 10:9 *People with integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.*

Integrity is shown when our public life and our private life match, when what we say and what we do are in harmony with each other.

James 4:17 *Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.*

So one of the questions we need to ask ourselves when making a decision is
“Can I do this with a clear conscious?”

What about those grey areas where we could decide either way?

Romans 14:14 *I know and am perfectly sure on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong.*

This verse simply implies generally that when in doubt - don't!

3. The Improvement Test

1 Corinthians 10:23 *Everything is permissible – but not everything is beneficial.
Everything is permissible – but not everything is constructive.*

Paul the apostle is saying that some things are not necessarily wrong - they're just not necessary or essential. The issue is what's really best for my life. *Will what I'm about to do make me a better person?* That's the improvement test.

4. The Influence Test

One of the biggest mistakes we make in life is we forget how much our actions influence and affect others around us.

We need to ask, “*Will my action or decision harm those around me?*”

Romans 14:12-13 *Yes, each of us will give an account of himself to God. So don't criticize each other anymore. Try instead to live in such a way that you will never make your brother stumble by letting him see you doing something he thinks is wrong.*

Romans 15:1-2 *Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the “burden” of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others - of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord.*

Mature people limit their freedom for the benefit of others.

Immature people don't.

Conclusion

Deuteronomy 5:33 *Follow all the directions the Lord has given you. Then life will go well for you...*

Like Treasure Hunters we have the map with the directions to find our way in life. We just need to understand what it says and learn to follow the directions.