The Power of Decision

At some point in life, we all face what appear to be no-win situations. Sometimes it seems every road leads to ruin. If you are not careful fear, doubt, panic, assumptions and indecision will take control.

YES! You have the CHOOSE to let fear, doubt and panic, set in, just like the 10 Israelites leaders sent to spy the land OR you can have the same strong faith and belief in God like Caleb & Joshua and go in there discovering the keys to making a lasting change. You must make a DECISION.

What is decision?

Decision is the act of making up your mind about something after a careful and objective analysis of the matters involved, by separating facts from spin-thoughts and assumptions: It is a position or opinion or judgment reached after consideration of known possibilities.

You select one possibility while cutting off all others and shape your choice to that particular form. Decision is one of the keys to gaining control over your life.

- No decision, No shaping of destiny.
- No decision, No progress.
- No decision, No risks

To understand and enjoy the power of decision you must be determined, self-confidence, committed, focused, have faith in God, ready for risks, have a positive mindset, take responsibility, avoid rumors, avoid postponements and avoid assumptions in your decision making process.

Making the right decisions is not a matter of luck or chance. It involves good assessment, focus, determination, risks and commitment doing what you can and allowing God to do what you cannot.

What are the Influencing factors in decision making?

1. The opinions of well-meaning friends, parents, acquaintances and the environment.
2. Spirit of determination and confidence
3. Rumors and assumptions
4. The people you associate with
5. Your spiritual and practical counselor
6. Your mindset and mental attitude - checking on the negative possibilities
7. Fear and doubt, the weapons of the devil are special missiles widely used by the enemy
8. Your knowledge of God

In fact, we are consciously or unconsciously, from situation to situation and from time to time always making decisions.

Some of these will only be matters of personal preference that will have little or no impact on your life in any significant way - matters such as:

- What clothes will you wear today?
- What will you eat for lunch?
- Which movie would be appropriate to watch?
- Should you go to church today?
- Should you be in the service punctually or after worship and praises?

However, other decisions have long-term ramifications that will affect your happiness and overall well-being.
For example:
- Should you attend college or further your education through other options?
- What career path should you pursue?
- What kind of person do you want to marry?
- Whom should you associate yourself with?
- Forgiving unconditionally

**Your whole life is determined by the decisions you make**, whether big or small.

The fact is that when you **DO NOT** decide to change things, you are deciding that they remain the same. Whether you are aware of it or not this is a naked truth.

- If you do not decide to receive the Word you are deciding to reject it.
- If you do not decide to continue seeking peace in God you are deciding to seek peace in the world.
- If you do not decide to put your trust and faith in God you are deciding to put your trust and faith in man (in your friends, the world and your own ability).
- If, as a gossiper, do not decide to stop gossiping you are deciding to continue gossiping.
- If you do not decide to be punctual in wherever you are going you are deciding to go at your leisure times deciding for unpunctuality and consequently undependable.
- If you do not decide to be committed in whatsoever you are doing you are deciding to be uncommitted.
- If you do not decide to change from negative mindset you are deciding to keep your negative mindset.
- If you do not decide to change basing your decisions on rumors and assumptions you are deciding to retain your source of decisions on rumors and assumptions.

If you do not direct your own reality, your life and your destiny, others will direct them and make decisions for you. They will dictate your future and plan your life and destiny.

You need to be aware that your future is shaped by the decisions you currently make. And the life you lead today is a result of the decisions you made in the past.

Because these and other decisions we face can affect us for the rest of our lives, they **require proper consideration**, proper investigation and **unconditional faith in God**.

Always examine your motives and the consequences before making a final commitment and final decision. Know who is giving you instructions, advices and counseling you. They can positively or negatively influence your decision-making process.

To be great in life you need a **clear assessment and decisions** on which category of people you currently belong to and you are willing to belong:
- those **who want something to happen** or
- like the many great men in the bible **that make something happen** or
- those **who wonder what happened**.

God will position you in that category you wish to belong depending on whichever decision you make iJN.

1. Managed thoughts

**Gen 1:2-4** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good

God made a life time decision that shaped and influenced the entire universe. God did not say something like "I'd like to", "I want to" or even "I'm planning to" because these terms do not involve making decision and commitment.
Rather, God gathered necessary information concerning the earth - the face of the earth and water, the form, light/darkness. He made accurate assessment of the information. He was focused and determined to make a change. Guess what, He immediately put His machinery to work, take immediate action and implement His decision right away.

God’s action is a **promptness of decision** that develops as a result of His **confident**, His **commitment**, His **determination**, His constructive, sure and **progressive positive mental attitude**.

After the creation of light, God was motivated, committed and determined to stick to the decision of creating a wonderful, visionary earth **not postponing** further actions and **not waiting** for things to happen.

After every action, God made a thorough analysis and evaluate His decision, the action and the result thereof. He continued making adjustments until He achieved His intended result of how the earth should be. Every time new ideas and vision are born. After every change it was written

**Gen 1:9-25** And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place ..... And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.......

"And God saw that it was good" - Gen 1:4, Gen 1:10, Gen 1:12, Gen 1:18, Gen 1:21 and Gen 1:25

God created us in His own image; therefore we are visionary, creative, innovative, and confident with progressive positive mental attitude. Just compare the technology of today the mobile phones, iPad, space technology, automobiles, television, computers, internet etc. Today, motivated engineers have to make strong decisions to produce better innovative products.

The friend of **Jesus**, Lazarus, was sick, and His best family friend sent message to him believing that Jesus will leave all and come immediately. But Jesus decided otherwise.

**John 11:6** "When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was." Jesus decided to stay where he was for 2 good days.

**John 11:15** And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

After 4 days Jesus left to see Martha and Mary. Too late they thought. **God is never too late**.

When God want to glorify Himself, He will turn around the unbelievable, unrealistic aspects of your decisions.

You think an action needs urgent attention and decision. **NO!!**

Have you taken a careful consideration of the consequences? **Have you checkout with God?**

Delays are not denial. Jesus waited 4 days before appearing at the grave of Lazarus

You’ll surely say that was God and His son Jesus. So they can do all things.

I used to say this when I was still in the world. - he belongs to the choir/ he is a exe member etc.

**Peter** is one of the great men in the bible **that make something happen**. His decisions are deliberate, prompt, and risky but based on faith, determination, confidence in God and positive mental attitude.

Without these special criteria, Peter would not be able to raise Tabitha (Dorcas) from death, heal the lame man at the beautiful gate and perform other wonderful works.

**Acts 3:6-7** 6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. 7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
Acts 9:40-41 Peter said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Out of the 12 disciples of our Lord Jesus, Peter was the only one able to walk on the sea. Because he understood the power of decision which involves determination, taking of risks, having faith and acting on one's decision.

Matt 14:25-29 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.
And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.
And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Success in life is not about luck. It's about managed thoughts, focused attention, risks, determination and deliberate actions.
This is the power of decision and power of the tongue in action as clearly demonstrated by Peter.

2. Decision based on the consequences/Influences

Every single decision you have ever made, or will ever make, has consequences. Once we learn to evaluate our decisions based on consequences, all the other considerations fall neatly into place.

Always examine your motives and the consequences before making a final commitment - What are the consequences going to be? Then follow your decisions to their logical conclusion before you make them. And finally make your decision based solely on the consequences.

Adam and Eve made a decision that not only affected their life but that decision had everlasting consequences on mankind. Note that there are decisions you'll make that will affect your life long.

Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The decision of Adam and Eve to eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" - disobeying God's Instruction (Gen 2:16-17) was not based on consequences but on feelings, assumptions, immediate gratification and the pressure from outside influences - Satan. God did not intervene.

God created us as free moral agents, so He does not intervene in all our actions and decisions. He is there watching all your movements, actions and deeds. And He gives you the freedom to choose and make decisions. If you don't take control of your own decision-making process and follow your objectives then you'll become a victim of circumstances like Adam and Eve.

Know who is giving you instructions, advices and counseling. They can positively or negatively influence your decision-making process which, if care is not taken, might lead you astray.

The enemies are working very hard to influence every decision of yours in their favor.

1) The devil will always be looking for meaningful tricks to win you.
   - Jesus was hungry after he had fasted forty days and forty nights.
     Matt 4:2-3 To Jesus he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.
   - Gen 3:1 To Eve he said Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2) The devil will give you a gloomy picture of the situation
   - Gen 3:4-5 To Eve he said Ye shall not surely die.... your eyes shall be opened.
Matt 4:6 To Jesus he said, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

It was the same devil on different seasons, different occasions, using the same trick but different decisions by the concerned, Jesus at one time and Adam/Eve at other season. Adam fell due to lack of knowledge and trust in the word of God.

The devil will also not stop pumping negative thoughts and ideas as well as doubt and fear into you so as to make the decision-making process more difficult.

The devil put all his machinery together and decided and succeeded to kill Jesus. But had he known the consequences of his decision, he would not have ventured to kill Jesus.

You need to stay firm, determined, focused and ready for risks and put your faith in God - giving the devil no room for questions.

God told Joshua that his enemies would be taken out and that he would be given total victory as long as he stayed with God's instructions

Are you obeying God's instruction and putting all your faith in Him?

3. Take Risks

Risk is only subjective according to the competency of the person facing it.
Those that take risks are the ones who achieve the highest positions in their life, they acquire greater power and freedom in creating reality.

David needed to make decisions anytime the lion and/or bears steal any of his sheep - either to pursue, overtake and recover, risking his life or to write the sheep off. - 1Sam. 17:34-35.

Men of God these days are no more ready to seek after the sheep the lions/bears have stolen from the kingdom of God.

Every decision you make today has impact on your future. And remember no decision is wrong it is either a wise decision or not.

1Sam. 17:34-35 As a young shepherd, without any military training, he entered the battlefield. There were these Field marshals, generals, major-generals, Captains, with numerous years of battle experiences. All including the king Saul were scared and afraid to face Goliath. No one was willing to risk his life.

But David made a decision of his life. He came out to face the giant, risking his life, but determined, focused, counting on his experiences of God delivering him from lions and bears putting his faith on God. He did not see any defeat, or failure.

He saw the glory of God on his side, resting on the good things God has been doing in his life, and the possibilities of saving the Israelites from the threat of Goliath.

When you do not put yourself in situations where risk is involved, you shut yourself off from probabilities of your desires fulfilled.

Which giant is before you? Take heed, wake the sleeping soldier in you and face that big but powerless Goliath. The Lord is on your side. Look back, like David, for those wonderful things He has done for you. And forge ahead.

Your thoughts, your mindset should be like that of David, Caleb and Joshua - the “Yes I can” mentality. Focusing on the possibilities of success and things going the way you desire instead of focusing on the possibilities of failure and things not going the way you might desire.
4. Your mindset

12 brave leaders were sent to spy the Promised Land to find out who the enemy was so they (the Israelites) can develop battle strategies to defeat them. 10 of them came with evil and disastrous reports. The 10 saw only giants and see themselves as grasshoppers. They were too scared of the giants and the kingdoms they saw in the Promised Land they were supposed to possess. They did not have enough faith and belief in God that He could conquer and defeat these giants for them. They start getting too focused on all the negative possibilities they will encounter. They saw defeat already. They forgot that God had just delivered them out of Egypt with one of the greatest displays of His supernatural power - 10 plagues - and furthermore the parting of the Red Sea that gave them safe passage into the wilderness. Yes they forgot all. - see Num. 13:17 & Num. 14:9

Only Caleb and Joshua came positively thinking, with encouraging and motivating reports. Num. 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. Caleb was ready for to take calculated risks and deliberate actions.

Num 14:8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Other great men and women in the scriptures rely on the power of decisions.

Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers and was bought by Potiphar. He was enjoying his newly founded freedom in Potiphar's house. Suddenly he was in a dilemma. He has to make a wise decision either to fulfill the wish of Potiphar's wife or not. He decided against the wish of his master's wife.

It was written in Gen 39: 7-9 7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

That simple decision Joseph made landed him in the prison where he spent 7 good years. At the time you make decision, it might seem the whole world is against you.

Some decisions you'll make, might like Joseph, land you into trouble. Don't worry. God is preparing a better way. Had Joseph decided to lie with her, he might not be thrown into prison and consequently will not meet the jailed butlers of Pharaoh, will not become the prime minister of Egypt and his dream will not have manifested.

Never make your decision to please people because every single decision you have ever made, or will ever make, has consequences.

And do not be directed only by natural instinct when you try to decide what is right and what is wrong and which action to take.

Moses: Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter

Think about what he refused. He was in line of the throne of Egypt as son of Pharaoh's daughter. You can compare him to Prince Williams of England, the son of Charles son of the Queen of England. He had honor, wealth, respect, prestige all the things this earth and world had to offer.

Yet he made a decision. Would you have made such if you were to be Moses? We all love those things of the world. He shall stay put.
Moses again. Exo 2:11-24 – decided to slay an Egyptian just to help fellow Hebrew.

11 And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting an Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

That decision had an impact on his life. He had to flee the palace where all things are at his disposal. What do you think will be going on in his mind? - A lot and many many unanswerable questions. But God was preparing him for a special job. Notwithstanding he never let this ugly decision of his and the consequences, stop him helping others.

Ex2:16-17. 16 Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters: and they came and drew water; and filled the troughs to water their father’s flock. 17 And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

Here is a man who just escaped from Pharaoh and has nowhere to lay his head. Brethren, what will you do if after helping others you find yourself in trouble, or like Joseph, demoralized for a crime you have not committed? Give up or continue? NO! The struggle continues.

5. Wise decisions

Fear, doubt, indecision and influences from outside will distract you from making wise decisions.

King Solomon They brought to him the case of 2 women with 2 babies - one dead one alive. He needed to make a wise decision. The judgment of this case will surely have severe impact in his kingdom.

1King 3: 23-25 23 Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living. 24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Ruth not knowing what will be her faith in the foreign land and what will be awaiting her if she should follow her mother-in-law Naomi, yet she decided with unbelievable determination and commitment to follow her. She took risks and moves forward fearlessly. Ruth did not let the flimsy excuses of Naomi change her mindset. She was ready for the mission.

Ruth 1:8 And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother’s house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me

Ruth 16-17 And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me-

Those who choose to play safe by avoiding risks end up being more prone to losing because they have less ability to handle unfamiliar situations that come their way.

6. Responsibility

You are responsible for every decision you make and the consequences involved. Your decisions can be blessing to others and it can bring curses and/or danger to others like the case of Jonah. (Jonah 1:1-17)

Jonah made a decision to hide himself out from God without prior analysis of the situation and the consequences. He knew it was a risk to run away. His decision put the life of innocent people into danger.
The crew of the ship where he hid himself, after investigation and scrutinization threw him into the sea.

God could have let Jonah suffer the consequences of his actions and let him drown. Yet, God intervenes and spares his life.

"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." - Jonah 1:17

Yes! We are serving a merciful God. He is ready to intervene in your situation and forgive us. Whichever situation we are, and whatever decisions we make, God does feel sorry for us and spares us in spite of our short comings and egoism. And when God sets His machinery to work, no attacking enemy can escape His vindication.

There lives a certain man in a small town in Ghana. One day, like the prodigal son, he summoned all his children together and asked them to "give me the portion of goods that falleth to me before I die".

The children were embarrassed. They made objective analysis of their father's request. He told them not to bother about him and/or of any mischief that might befall him. When he was confronted about his death, he bluntly told them not care and worry themselves. The children very worried and inconclusive decided to involve the elders of the town. They seek the elders of the city for advice and intervention. But the man, like Ruth, will not let any excuse or discussions of the elders and of his children change his mindset. He was determined. Disappointed, the child agreed to fulfill his request and heart's desire. Unfortunately for the old man, he fell sick a few months later. Though he regretted and took full responsibility of his decision but, unlike the lucky the prodigal son, none of the children came to his rescue. No begging could change the mind of the children. The old man made his decision based on immediate gratification.

Don't just make decisions without cross-checking and evaluating the consequences.

7. Learning and adjusting

Learning and adjusting is how we reach our goals.

Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector who got rich by making others pay lots of taxes. And he was hated by most people of Jericho.

One day, Zacchaeus fully determined, decided to see Jesus at all costs. He made a life decision. There are obstacles and hindrances that will make it difficult for him to come closer to Jesus.

- Jesus was always surrounded by a crowd and
- Zacchaeus "he was little of stature" - Luke 19:3.

He made analysis of the situation, bases on consequences and not on feelings or assumptions. He did not surrender to his natural handicaps and did not let the environment obstruct and destroy his heart's desire.

He did not care if the people laughed at him - a rich and famous man climbing a tree. He did not mind what the journalists are going to write about him on the first page of their newspapers - His picture climbing and sitting on the tree. Yes, he was determined. He just had to see this famous miracle-worker Jesus, no matter what.

Luke 19:4 - "So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way."

Luke 19:5 - And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down: for today I must abide at thy house.

With this decision, Zacchaeus and his entire family received salvation. This is the power of decision in action. What is that mountain before you? What problems are you facing? Do you feel yourself to be in such a situation like Zacchaeus, the prodigal son, Jonah or the 4 lepers? Is your problem bigger than the God you serve?
The prodigal son is another wonderful example of decision-making process.

He did not blame others but learn from his mistakes. He was determined and a positive mental attitude.

Luke 15: 11-12 A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

- Neither the father nor the son examined the motives and the consequences before making the decision and the commitment.
- The son did not gather any accurate information of the far country, how he will make use of his portion of goods and consequently he became a victim of circumstances.

Luke 15: 17-18 And when he came to himself ..... I will arise and go to my father...

This time, he analyzed his situations, examined his motives and the alternatives, reasoned and acted on the option that offered him the best hope whatsoever. He took full responsibility of his mischief and immediately took action and implemented his new decision right away.

Luke 15:20 And he arose, and came to his father.

God is waiting for you to make a counter decision of those previous unfavorable ones.

Don’t just make decisions without cross-checking and evaluating the consequences. Are you ready to act like Zacchaeus or like the prodigal son – putting all your faith in God?

You need to make a thorough and objective analysis of your situation, take full responsibility, make and activate bold decisions. Do what you can do and let God do what you cannot do.

You must be ready and have the courage to face hard choices like the prodigal son. Make that choice today and move boldly forward, knowing God will go with you. God did promise you that He will not give you a problem above your capacity to solve.

At some point in life, we all face what appear to be no-win situations. Sometimes it seems every road leads to ruin. This is the experience of the prodigal son. But we need to have faith, thinks positively, do what we can do and let God do what we cannot do – make a decision and act on that decision.

3. Action on your faith

The woman with the issue of blood Mark 5:25-28

This woman put her thinking machinery into action expected something to happen.

- She gathered necessary information about Jesus and his healing power.
- She made an accurate assessment of the information and clarified the objectives, separating facts from rumors and assumptions.
- She was focused, determined and ready to take risks - For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole
- She promptly acted in faith on her decision - came in the press behind, and touched his garment. Mark 5:27

The power of decision proved itself to her immediately for it was written:
"And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague." Mark 5:29
Finally:

One good news is that there's no reason to be fearful in decision making when you are secure in the knowledge that God has your best interest in mind.

The only way to be free from danger is to master danger instead of avoiding it. And the key to mastering danger are at your disposal. They are contained in the instruction manual of God - the Holy Bible. It is God's Word and contains the all-important guidelines needed to make truly wise decisions!

Has God not promised to give us the needed wisdom to make wise decisions if we ask Him for it?

If God be for us, who can be against us? Rom 8:31

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Is 48:17 Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

He said in Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

May God give you rest

May God lead you in making wise decisions - separate facts from assumptions and not on feelings.

May God grant you the ability to be focusing on the possibilities of success instead of the possibilities of failures.

May God grant you the ability to be able to take risks and some deliberate actions.

God bless you.
And God saw that it was good – Gen 1:4, Gen 1:9, Gen 1:13, Gen 1:18, Gen 1:21, Gen 1:25

To Jesus, Gen 3:1 To Eve he said, Gen 3:4-5 To Eve he said. Matt 4:6 To Jesus he said

To Jesus, Gen 3:1 To Eve he said, Gen 3:4-5 To Eve he said.