

***The Wise Person's
Guide to Successful
Decision Making***

Proverbs 3:5–8

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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Proverbs 3:5–8 (ESV) - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

***⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away
from evil. ⁸It will be healing to
your flesh and refreshment to
your bones.***

Step #1: Prepare

Proverbs 21:29 (CSB) - *The upright [person] considers his way.*

- **Get all the facts you can.**

Proverbs 19:2 (ESV) - *Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.*

Proverbs 13:16 (ESV) - *Every prudent man acts with knowledge.*

Proverbs 18:15 (CSB) - *The mind of the discerning acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks it.*

Proverbs 10:14 (CSB) - *The wise store up knowledge.*

- **Get advice from people who are in the know.**

Proverbs 20:18 (NIV84) - *Make plans by seeking advice.*

Proverbs 15:22 (CSB) - *Plans fail when there is no counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

Step #2: Pray!

Proverbs 16:3 (CSB) - *Commit your activities to the LORD, and your plans will be established.*

- **Start your prayer by taking a great, big humble pill.**

Proverbs 20:24 (ESV) - *A man's steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?*

Proverbs 3:7–8 (CSB) - *Don't be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from evil.*
⁸This will be healing for your body and strengthening for your bones.

**Proverbs 3:5 (CSB) - *Do not
rely on your own
understanding.***

**Proverbs 3:7 (CSB) - *Don't be
wise in your own eyes.***

Proverbs 16:5 (CSB) - *Everyone with a proud heart is detestable to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.*

- **Follow with a good dose of trust in God.**

Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV) - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

Step #3: Act.

- **The mistake many Christians make: Waiting on God when God is waiting on you.**

Exodus 14:13–16 (CSB) - *But Moses said to the people, “Don’t be afraid. Stand firm and see the LORD’s salvation that he will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.*

***14 The LORD will fight for you,
and you must be quiet.”***

***15 The LORD said to Moses,
“Why are you crying out to me?
Tell the Israelites to break
camp. 16 As for you, lift up your***

***staff, stretch out your hand
over the sea, and divide it so
that the Israelites can go
through the sea on dry
ground.”***

- The “*ask / seek / knock*” principle

Matthew 7:7–8 (CSB) - *“Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and the one who*

***seeks finds, and to the one who
knocks, the door will be
opened.”***

- **Move forward aggressively.**

**Proverbs 16:9 (CSB) - A
*person's heart plans his way,
but the LORD determines his
steps.***

Step #4: Remember.

- **That God opens and closes doors.**

Proverbs 19:21 (CSB) - *Many plans are in a person's heart, but the LORD's decree will prevail.*

- **So be open to new possibilities along the way.**

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***You can't cover all the bases,*
*but God can.***

Proverbs 16:4 (NIV84) - *The LORD works out everything for his own ends — even the wicked for a day of disaster.*