

September 2, 2014

EXTREME FAITH

How do you
make
decisions?

Name:

Take me home!



LIFE...

Searching for Wisdom...

Last week we started talking about decisions, and how we make them. We all have decisions to make. Will we go this way or that way, will our faith grow or stay the same. Decisions are the markers in life that cause us to continue to move. When you don't make a decision when life calls you to make a decision, well you just stall out and you don't move. All the while life is still moving around you. So how do you make decisions and how do you make the right decisions in life. For that you need a well to pull wisdom from. When you have a well to pull from, you have a place of wisdom to help guide you in the decision making process. When life calls us to make a decision, we can sometimes make a decision too fast and then wish we decide something else. Have you ever done that? Made a decision so fast that you really did not even take time to think about it. Then when you have to live with the choices that you made you wish you chose something else. We have all done that but did we learn from it? See when we learn from our bad decisions we realize that we need wisdom on our side. Wisdom will never fail you, it is the place we should all make our decisions from. So do you have a well of wisdom? Do you

have a place you can go to so that your decisions will be good ones? In the Bible there are many verses about wisdom. God really likes us to be wise in all that we do. He longs for us to be the best decision makers around. He really loves it when we use His wisdom to help us make decisions. He likes it so much He gives wisdom away for free! Yes Free! Think about it if I sent out a text to everyone in XGT and stated in the text that the first one to make it to the church would win a free iPad. How fast would you try to get to the church? An iPad is cool and great, but it is not as powerful as wisdom. God gives wisdom away for free. Check out this verse **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.** That is awesome it is free, and when you think that it is not free to you because of the decisions that you have made in the past, God covers that and says it will be given generously to all without find fault. God will give wisdom to everyone, no judging involved. So do you have a well? Do you cry out for wisdom to make decisions? Make it a point to believe in James 1:5 and seek out God wisdom for decisions.



Living Extreme means...

Take a good look at that picture. What and awesome jump into a well, can you imagine the flight then the crashing into the cool spring waters. Gives you the vision of something refreshing, cool, inviting, and well totally awesome. Just like the well in the picture jumping headlong into God's wisdom offers the same wonderful rewards. Living Extreme means that you will search out and dig into God's word to find the wisdom that you need to make good decisions. James 1:5 says that God gives wisdom freely without judging. That is pretty awesome for sure. So if jumping into God's word is like jumping into a well then it is time to get Extreme and take the plunge. Developing a well of wisdom starts by asking God to give you wisdom each and every day. Having a total dependence on God is the best way to live. As you live in that style you can develop a well of wisdom to pull from as you read and study God's word. We should always live with a total dependence on God for sure, but we must also have a well of wisdom to pull from, when you have a deep well of God's wisdom living inside of you then you will see God's plan and will for you life much easier. Jump in the well the wisdom is great!

Would you rather...?

Do a pushup, do a pullup, do a situp, do a crunch, do a plank, do a lunge, do a squat, do a deadlift, do a bench press, do a shoulder press, do a bicep curl, do a tricep extension, do a core workout, do a cardio workout, do a strength workout, do a yoga workout, do a Pilates workout, do a dance workout, do a boxing workout, do a martial arts workout, do a gymnastics workout, do a cheerleading workout, do a basketball workout, do a soccer workout, do a tennis workout, do a golf workout, do a fishing workout, do a hunting workout, do a gardening workout, do a painting workout, do a cooking workout, do a cleaning workout, do a shopping workout, do a traveling workout, do a relaxing workout, do a partying workout, do a dating workout, do a marriage workout, do a family workout, do a friendship workout, do a community workout, do a world workout, do a universe workout, do a everything workout.

...eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of dishwasher liquid?

...swim through smelly sewer water or walk across hot coals with your bare feet?

...make a decision based on your own knowledge or

make a decision based on knowledge that comes from a perfect source?

CHARACTER

When you think about how you make decisions, do you make it based on your character or do you make decisions based on how you feel? When you have extreme character you will allow it be the foundation. Our foundation as Jesus followers means that we allow God to lead, and we trust the wisdom that He provides. Which means extreme character does not make decisions based on emotions.

Think About it...

(Making decisions out of your character...)

Wisdom is key, and many people will tell you that you get wisdom from experience. While that is true it is not the only way to get wisdom. Remember we are looking at James 1:5 which tells us that God Gives Wisdom Freely!

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.

So it seems like there is more than one way to get wisdom. So lets talk about what wisdom really does for you.

To do this lets go to the source of Wisdom God's Word

Check this out: The She is referring to Wisdom

Proverbs 3:13-18

13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gains understanding,

14 for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.

16 Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.

17 Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her;
those who lay hold of her will be blessed.

In this section where wisdom is describe there are some really awesome things laid out in gaining wisdom.

Here is a list of things:

You are Blessed

You gain understanding

It is more profitable that silver and is worth more than gold

More precious than rubies

Think of the thing you want the most in life, it does not compare to wisdom

Wisdom holds long life

Wisdom brings riches and wisdom and honor

Having wisdom leads you to pleasant ways, and gives you peace

Wisdom brings life to you and you will be blessed!

That is quite a list I want you to read it agin and ask yourself is there anything on the list that you don't want in your life? No! We all would want those things to be a part of our life. So what you going to do? How are you going to get wisdom? Start asking and then using it. You can't use what you don't ask for. So for every decision that you have seek out God and ask for wisdom so you can make a decision. Build a wisdom well by reading God's word and before long you will see that you have wisdom on your side and you will be unstoppable!

DIG IN

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.

Finish this Sentence:

(Fill in the blank... How would you finish this sentence?)

***I make my decisions based on...**

***How hard was it for you to complete the unfinished sentence?**

***How do you use wisdom to make decisions?**

***Looking at James 1:5 what are the reasons you think God gives wisdom away freely? How can you use that wisdom to help you make good decisions?**
