

decisions

introduction

Have you ever been struggling with a tough decision and been so confused that you flipped a coin to decide? Maybe you're struggling with a decision right now. Let's look at what Psalm 37:5-6 says about decisions. Keep in mind that the final decision is sometimes not as important as the decision-making process. The process we choose—whether it's flipping a coin or something more sensible—says a lot about who we are and what we believe.

message

1. We make decisions based on either trust or fear. We learn to make decisions from past experiences, present circumstances or things we have been taught. We do this by looking through a lens of either confidence or timidity. The lens we use says a lot about our relationship with God. Have you been burned before by people or circumstances? If you have, it affects you every time you make a decision.
2. Listen to this description of a typical decision-making process.
 - Step 1: We make a decision based on fear instead of trust in the Lord, so we become closed in our outlook.
 - Step 2: When we are closed, we protect ourselves from being burned by someone or some outside force. The closed person builds up walls for protection.
 - Step 3: Behind these walls we become self-centered, making decisions that are self-pleasing
 - Step 4: The end result is frustration, depression or loneliness as we either stay on the solo route, needing no one, or float from person to person, seeking advice from people whom we really never get to know.
3. On the other hand, people who make decisions based on trust in the Lord is an open person. They seek out wise and godly people, trusting God to protect them, knowing that God is ready to pick up the pieces if they are hurt. These people make decisions considering everyone involved. Since they entrust their own lives to the Lord, they are able to be servants and to care for the needs of others before themselves. They help others win in life, not caring about benefiting from it. They need others, help others and trust in God to make it all work.
4. The bottom line: Do we trust God? Let's give it all to Him—our fears, past experiences and present circumstances. We must not let these things begin a cycle of bad decisions.



salvation appeal

God has the ability to straighten up the mess that we've made in our lives. Trust Him today. Ask Him to come into your life, forgive you of past wrongs and be your Lord.

challenge

Do you need to renew your commitment to God? Even if you are a Christian, you may not always realize why you do certain things. An honest look at your life will probably show you still could trust God more. He stands ready with open arms. He wants to work in your life. Trust Him today.