



“How to be a Wise Guy ...or Girl”

The Do's

1. Always, first seek wisdom from God by asking Him specifically in faith

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:5-8)

2. Practical wisdom can be found in the Bible

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105)

“The Law of the LORD is perfect...making wise the simple” (Psalm 19:7)

“Your statutes are my delight, they are my counselors” (Psalm 119:24)

3. Real wisdom comes from the biblical counsel of a few informed godly people

“Where there is no guidance the people fall; but in abundance of counselors there is victory” (Proverbs 11:14)

“Without consultation plans are frustrated; but with many counselors they succeed” (Proverbs 15:22)

“For by wise guidance you will wage war; and in abundance of counselors there is victory” (Proverbs 24:6)

4. Pray, wait and be patient before making important decisions

“So we fasted and petitioned our God about this and He answered our prayer” (Ezra 8:23)

“Then I quickly prayed to the God of heaven” (Nehemiah 2:4)

5. Be aware of the subjective ministry of the Holy Spirit in decision making
“the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17)
“the fruit of the spirit is...**joy, peace**” (Galatians 5:22)
“those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and **peace**... For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself **testifies with our spirit** that we are God’s children” (Romans 8:5-6; 15-16)

The Don’ts

6. When you are married, never make a major decision when you and your spouse are not one
“they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24)
“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (Ephesians 5:21)
“admonish one another” (Romans 15:14)
7. Don’t make decisions in a hurry
“the men of Israel...did not ask for the counsel of the LORD” (Joshua 9:14)
8. Don’t make decisions with unconfessed sin in your life
“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy” (Proverbs 28:13)
9. Don’t make decisions that conflict with mature believers
“King Rehoboam...abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him” (1 Kings 12:6, 8)
10. Don’t make decisions in isolation
“The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice” (Proverbs 12:15)
11. Don’t make decisions out of fear
“Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe” (Proverbs 29:25)
12. Don’t make decisions to please men
“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10)