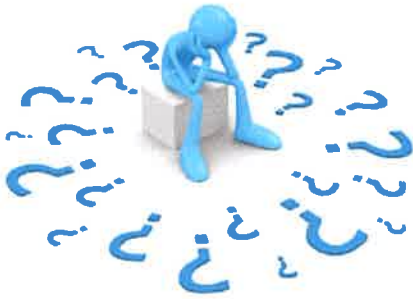


WHAT TO DO



WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

Everything is getting so complicated! You have to make so many choices these days. It's hard to know which one is best. What should one do?

1. **DECIDE TO DECIDE.** Even waiting to see how things work out is a choice. Make it a conscious choice with attention to the consequences. "At the time I have decided, my words will come true," says the LORD God, "You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting – it will happen." Habakkuk 2:2.
2. **SEEK GOOD ADVICE.** The record of human experience teaches that there are things beyond our control – our DNA, our times & circumstances; the forces of nature – and there are things over which we have control by our choices – our attitudes, our relationships, our actions. We repeat what rewards us and avoid what doesn't, whether for good or ill. "Stop the doing of evil, learn to do good," Isaiah 1:17. Seek the advice of good people. Pray for guidance. Think about what to do, before you do it.
3. **IMAGINE A CHOICE AND HOW IT WOULD TURN OUT.** The Prophet Samuel imagined how it would be if Israel chose to have a king, 1 Samuel 9: conscription of sons for war, and daughters as palace servants; annexation of the best farm land; taxing one-tenth of all produce. The scenario was clear. An informed imagination can prepare one for any surprises later.
4. **CHOOSE TO SET A COURSE FOR ACTION.** Inaction needs to become action. When Elijah was running for his life as a prophet, he told God he had enough and to leave him alone, 1 Kings 19:4, but he was roused from his sleep, fed, and sent on his way to meet God at the holy mountain.
5. **STICKING WITH IT IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE CHOICE.** Make momentary good intentions into real public actions. Paul, Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high-calling of God in Christ Jesus."
6. **STAND BY A GOOD CHOICE IN THE FACE OF CRITICISM.** Ephesians 6:14.