



# 7 STEPS TO MAKING WISE DECISIONS

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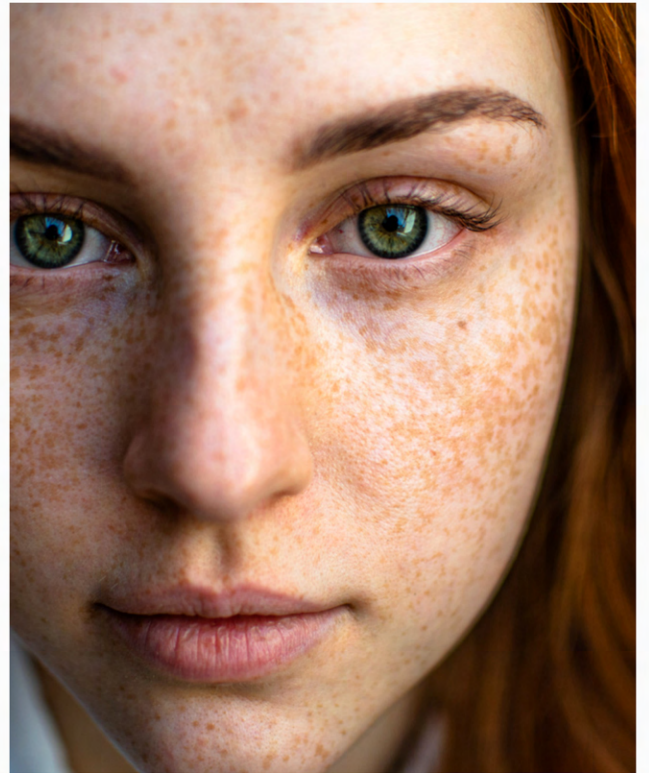
**WRITTEN BY**

Laura Woodworth

## Wouldn't it be nice...

If you could get a word from God for every situation you encounter?

Preferably an audible booming voice from heaven or from someone you regard as “super spiritual” to direct your decisions to “take that job” or “marry that person” or do this or do that to relieve a difficult situation with a child or spouse or friend.



## God is always speaking.

And He will speak to you! He loves it when you seek out His input, His heart on a matter.



However, we can quickly get off course if we are constantly relying on other people to supply a “word” for our situation when what we really need to do first and foremost, is to seek God’s wisdom for ourselves. Here are 7 steps to help you make wise decisions.

## Step 1. Position yourself to receive.

God’s wisdom is available to each and every one of us. Receiving it is a matter of posture and attitude, of becoming still before Him so you can hear His voice. The Bible encourages us to tune our ears to His voice, to cry out for His wisdom.



“Tune your ears to wisdom and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight and understanding. Search for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasure...” (Proverbs 2:2-4 NLT)

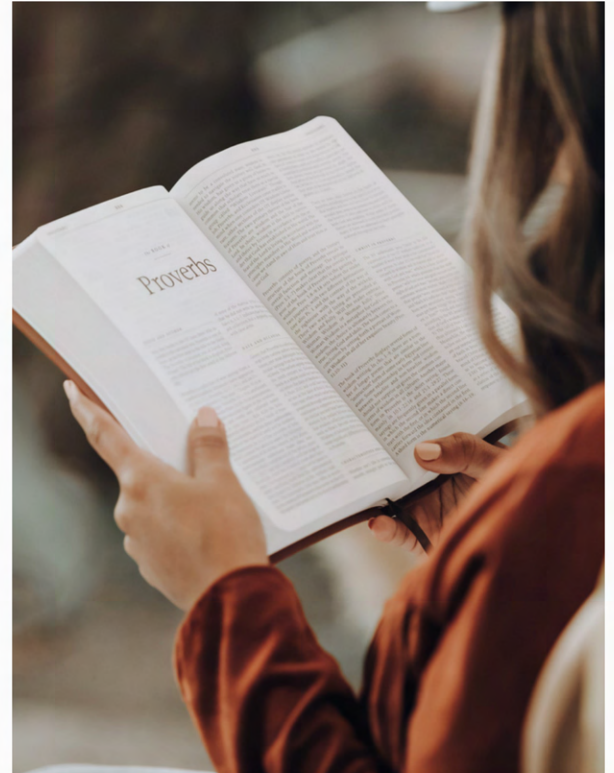
This is not a passive posture, but one of earnest seeking and listening. It takes effort to gain God’s wisdom for ourselves, but it’s worth it.

## Step 2. Grab hold of the promise.

We have the wonderful promise in scripture that if we seek God's wisdom, we will receive! God wants to guide you.

The proverb continues:  
"For the Lord grants wisdom!  
From His mouth come  
knowledge and understanding..."

Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will know how to find the right course of action every time."  
(Proverbs 2:6, 9 NLT)



## God wants to see you succeed in every area of your life.



In the New Testament, James reinforces God's heart towards you.

"If you need wisdom – if you want to know what God wants you to do – ask Him, and He will gladly tell you."  
(James 1: 5 NLT)

Receiving God's direction all boils down to your faith – your deep belief system.

### 3. Check your faith.

James adds, “He will not resent your asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that you really expect Him to answer...” (James 1: 5, 6 NLT)

Faith is a prerequisite to receiving God’s guidance. Do you really expect Him to answer? God doesn’t mind you asking, but He does require you to ask with expectation.

Do you have faith that God will answer you - and give you specific direction for your situation?



Can you believe that God wants to lead and guide you? Take a moment now and consider your faith.

If you feel like God has left you to figure life out all by yourself – if you think He has stepped back to watch and see if you succeed or fail, reconsider your view of God in light of the promises laid out in scripture.

**Reread the verses above.**



Pull out your bible and underline the good things God has promised you. Let them sink deep into your soul.

Let faith arise... and then you'll be ready to approach God and ask for wisdom, truly expecting Him to answer.

#### **4. Ask.**

With faith in your heart, now you ask. He will speak! He will guide you. Expect it.

The answer may come while you're driving your car and an inspired thought lands in your soul...

You may be reading your bible and a scripture you've read a zillion times leaps off the page.

Something may light up in your soul as your pastor preaches or a trusted friend shares a story over a cup of coffee.

You may have a vision or a dream of what something should or could look like.

You may even get that booming voice from heaven you were hoping for! No matter how God's wisdom comes, be ready to receive.

You may be asking – how can I be sure that what I've heard is from God and not some crazy idea inspired by a late night movie?

## 5. Check the answer.

Checks and balances protect your path. Does what you're sensing or hearing line up with scripture and God's character?

Before you make a hasty decision or take rash action, run it through the filters that God has put in place.

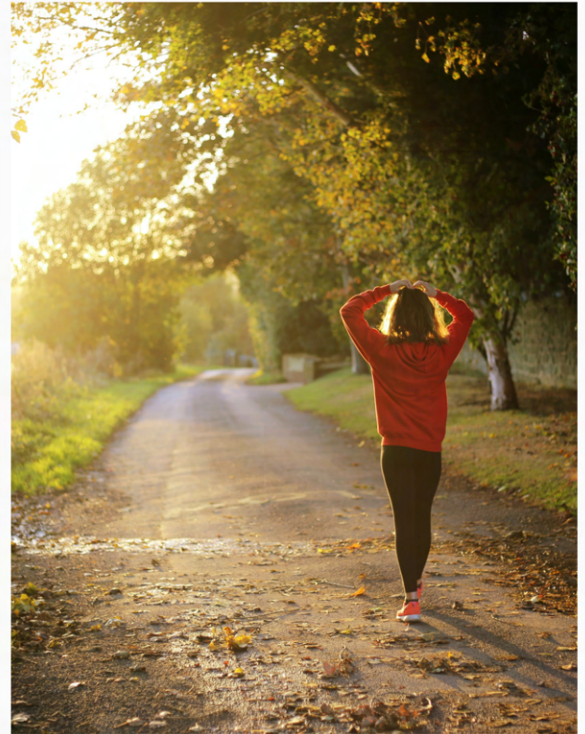


## God's wisdom is pure.

God's wisdom always brings peace and produces good fruit. His wisdom is pure.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.” (James 3:17 NKJV)

Does the word or image or direction you've received reflect this? Is it pure, peaceable, gentle, humble, merciful?



If you're feeling unsettled, let's back up a few scriptures to James 3:14-15 and compare it to “earthly” wisdom which produces confusion and chaos.

“... if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing is there.”

## The tricky thing is...

Man's wisdom can seem logical, but if you're feeling unsettled it's best to pause and consider before you act. And, run the thought through yet another filter.



## 6. Ask others for input.

There's safety in numbers! Especially for those big life decisions, seek confirmation before you move forward.

God has put you in a body of believers, a family of faith. Proverbs 24:6 admonishes that “in a multitude of counselors there is safety.”



Consider the people in your life – your spouse, a friend, your pastor. As you're learning to listen for God's wisdom, seek out counsel.

Seek input from trusted people of faith whom you respect. Make sure this is the pure and peaceable will of God.

And, if you are not yet fully decided, go back to Step 1. Pray, seek, and listen.

**Then it's a matter of trust.**

## 7. Trust God's voice.

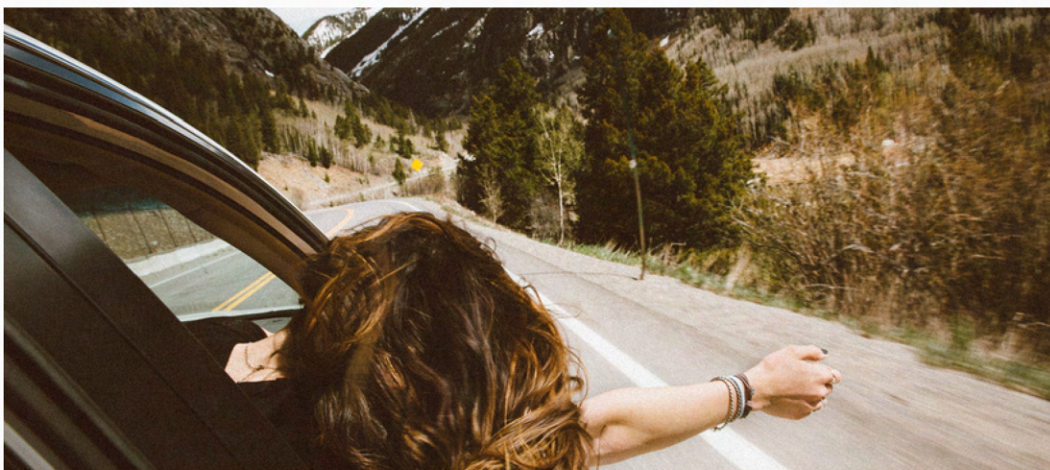
Don't let indecision stall your life. Trust God's Holy Spirit to guide you towards the wisdom that will produce good things in your life and the lives of those around you.

Follow through in faith while listening for God's guidance every step of the way.

### Hearing from God is not rocket science.

It's an attitude of faith and attentiveness. It's an expectation that every believer can attain, a knowing deep inside that when you cry out for God's wisdom, He will respond.

“He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you... Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’” (Isaiah 30:19, 21 NKJV)



## Has this encouraged you?

Connect with more inspirational resources from Laura Woodworth at [LauraWoodworth.com](http://LauraWoodworth.com).

### Laura Woodworth Writer-Producer-Director



A multi-platform writer and screenwriter, Laura Woodworth brings a lifetime of rich and varied experience to her work and writing. Her passion is Jesus and her goal to inspire others to live lives that display God's glory and goodness.

"It's time for the sons and daughters of God to arise! You are meant to be ahead of the curve, setting the standard, establishing what will be in this world.

Your life can influence another to live for God."  
- Laura Woodworth

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