

Core Seminars—Guidance
Class 7: Q&A



What Makes for a Good Question?

1. It's a real question (“devil’s advocate” questions aren’t useful).
2. It's a question you think other people might also have.
3. It's a question that will be edifying for the class.

Class Summary

Class #1: Is Your Decision-Making Anxious or Restful?

- God normally guides us through the wisdom he gives us.
- A model decision-making process: Consecration, Information, Supplication, Consultation, Meditation, Decision, Expectation

Class #2: God’s Providence

- God is sovereign over absolutely everything—including our decisions.
- God’s goal in everything is to show of the excellence of his glory.
- We are responsible to be faithful in our decisions.

Class #3: God’s Will

- God’s will of decree versus God’s will of command.
- The Bible does not tell us to find God’s will for most of life’s choices, life is not like a “choose your own adventure” book.
- God’s will: that we obey, that we be sanctified, that Christ be exalted.

Class #4: Faithfulness

- Your goal as a Christian is not achievement, but faithfulness.
- God values your work mainly because it shows off his work.
- Faithfulness-oriented decision-making brings freedom from perfectionism, from unnecessary regret, from pride, and from laziness.

Class #5: Tools of the Trade 1 (Scripture, Prayer, Counsel)

- God's Word
 - Not: random verses, out of context.
 - But: clarifying obedience, shaping our judgment over time.
- Prayer
 - Not: asking for signs God hasn't promised.
 - But: pray through Scripture, pray for wisdom.
- Counsel
 - Not: selective counsel, putting too much faith in the counsel of a wise person who doesn't know you.
 - But: talk to those who know you, know your situation, are godly, and know the Scriptures. OK if that's not all in one person.

Class #6: Tools of the Trade 2 (Circumstances, Feelings)

- Circumstances
 - Not: assigning mystical significance to changes in circumstances.
 - But: humbly accepting your situation as God's good plan for you.
- Feelings, Leadings, Hunches, etc.
 - Not: assuming that a strong feeling is God's leading; acting only where you feel peace.
 - But: recognizing that God can guide through our desires and feelings—with appropriate skepticism of ourselves.
- Wisdom
 - Begins with the fear of the Lord
 - Comes as we pursue the means of grace
 - Follows obedience