

TWO: THE GUIDED DECISION *I will seek wisdom.*

God moves mountains to create the opportunity of His choosing. It is up to me to be ready to move myself. **The Guided Decision** helps us discover invaluable counsel through the Bible, books, people, and service. We learn to evaluate the network of influential people in our lives, to seek wisdom from the knowledge of others, and, perhaps most important, to commit to a life of service.

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The Guided Decision: *I will seek wisdom. Your past will never be changed, but you will change your future by changing your actions today. It is really a very simple process. **The Guided Decision** teaches us to actively seek wisdom to help us craft lives of extraordinary achievement.*

The past will never change, but you can change the future by changing your actions today. It is really a very simple process. It is really a very simple process. We, as humans, are always in a process of change. Therefore, we might as well guide the direction in which we will change.

The Guided Decision rests on doing 3 things:

a) Three daily simple things to do:

There are three simple things you can do daily to chart your lifelong search for wisdom:

- a) read the Bible and biographies of Christian heroes,
- b) take the counsel of others,
- c) and serve others.

1. The Power of Fellowship:

Guard your associations carefully.

Anytime you tolerate mediocrity in your choice of companions, you become more comfortable with mediocrity in your own life. If a lazy man isn't an irritation to you, it's a sign that you have accepted slothfulness as a way of life.

It's critical to choose your friends with care. I often ask people, "What is a true friend to you?" More than 80 percent of the time, I hear, "A true friend is someone who accepts me as I am." My friend, this is dangerous garbage to believe. A true friend is someone who accepts you as you are?

2. Harnessing your Inner Circle:

The Guided Decision teaches us that, you need some real friends who will have courage to level with you. –Friends to share their valuable input into your ideas. You need a personal "**Board of Directors**" – very close friends. Harness Your Inner Circle to guide you to the success you want to achieve. To a large degree, we are who we spend time with.

1. In your **Notebook** list everyone you consider to be in your "inner circle"—those closest to you who influence your life, including family members, friends, and colleagues.
2. **The Guided Decision** teaches us that our peers either stretch us or burden us. Next to each name, put an arrow to denote which direction the person is leading you. (This can be a difficult exercise for many of us because we form attachments to even those "friends" who hinder our progress. Be honest as you evaluate who you spend time with.)
3. Do you see any patterns? Are there a few people with whom you spend time who generally sour your life experiences? Or do you invest most of your time with those souls who challenge you, uplift you, and help you to become more? Your Board of Directors?

3. The over 40 Problem for Church leaders :

The danger point occurs when we begin to think too highly of our own wisdom and start ignoring the counsel of others. It gets dangerous when, following an abundance of success, we begin to think, I've got it covered. It's wired. It's done. I understand. And now I'm free to make all the decisions myself. Our actions begin to say, I'm wiser and smarter than anyone else.

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Remember the danger point occurs when we begin to think too highly of our own wisdom and start ignoring the counsel of others.

4. Cultivating the Servant's Spirit:

A wise man will cultivate a servant's spirit, for that particular attribute attracts people like no other.

Three stories: Three stories of Men who learned to become servants and became the world's most powerful people: Mr. Aristotle Onassis, Mr. Alfred Vanderbilt, & Mr. Buckminster Fuller

1. Aristotle Onassis

Onassis – An Italian, became the world's greatest shipping magnate. As far as I know he had the largest shipping fleet in the world. When he was old and extremely rich a newspaper reporter asked him. Mr. Onassis what would you do if you lost all your wealth? He replied I would get any job I could get and probably a few part time-jobs also. I would serve my boss as good as I possibly could. I would live frugally and save all my money. Then I would dress-up and attend a very luxurious banquet of all the rich people in town and be helpful there. I would spend all my money doing this. Then I would work hard; save my money and spend it all attending the next luxurious banquet and be helpful there. The reporter asked "why"? Onassis replied: Because after a few banquets several of the rich influential men would come to know me as a good helpful person, and eventually would hire me or loan me money.

Today you can begin to be an Onassis. You can cultivate a Servant's spirit and begin to attract influential people. Not only in our denomination, but also among civic leaders.

As a spiritual worker your life belongs to others. So will you give it to others?

What will your decision be today???

2. Alfred Vanderbilt

Alfred Vanderbilt was the son of the richest person in the world at that time. He had several brothers and sisters who all desired important positions in their father's company. Alfred however insisted on beginning as a simple store clerk in one of their stores and then to move upward through each successive job position. He was constantly serving people. His servant heart and servant attitude became eventually a mark of his life. When his father died he left an inheritance of 7 million dollars to each of his children. But to Alfred he left not only 7 Million but rather 76 Million. He knew that Alfred would know how to handle that and not squander it. At middle age Alfred was still serving people. He was on a large ship and it began to sink. He helped the people get into the lifeboats. Lastly he put in a little girl, then took off his own safety vest and gave to the girl's mommy. After that he drowned.

Alfred's life was cut short, but his reputation and legacy of a servant's heart remain.

Do you have a reputation of a "Servant's Heart"? Do you desire such a reputation?

What will your decision be today???

3. Buckminster Fuller

Fuller - One future hero completely ruined and broke, on the verge of committing suicide had an epiphany, suddenly he realized that *his life belonged not to himself but to others*. He chose that

moment to embark upon an experiment to discover what a little, penniless, unknown individual might be able to do on behalf of humanity. He thought, *If my life belongs not to myself but to others, then what can I do for others?*

What will become of a life of service? Over the next fifty-four years, Fuller proved time and again that his most controversial ideas were practical and workable.

Do battle with the challenges of your present, and you will unlock the prizes of your future. Imagine! Fuller a man who was bankrupt, discredited, jobless, and about to commit suicide. And he decides to make his life an experiment! *My life doesn't belong to me; it belongs to others. So I will give it to others.*

Fuller was awarded 25 US patents, authored 28 books, and received 47 honorary doctorates, he received many medals. Became a successful speaker. Circled the globe 57 times reaching millions through his lectures and work.

Fuller decided: **"I will live a life of service"** What will your decision be today???

**GOD GAVE US A WHOLE BOOK ON PROVERBS
– IN THAT BOOK GOD EQUATES WISDOM WITH JESUS**