

I AM TRUSTING GOD NOT TAKING CHARGE

Genesis 16:1-15

Proverbs 21:5 (NLT), Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

Genesis 16:1-2, ¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; ² so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

Big Idea: It's far better to seek God's advice about a decision being made than about a mess being cleaned up.

Genesis 16:3-5, ³ So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. ⁵ Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

Genesis 16:7-8

The Heart God Protects from Bad Decisions

1) It UNDERSTANDS God's will.

Ephesians 5:15-18, ¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine . . . Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Genesis 16:9-12; Philippians 4:4; I Corinthians 13:13; Romans 15:13

2) It HONORS God's leadership.

Hebrews 4:9-10, ⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

Genesis 16:2-4

James 1:14-15, ¹⁴ . . . each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

3) It PROCEEDS with God's permission.

James 4:13-15, ¹³Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." ¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

The Heart God Guides into Good Decisions

1) It IDENTIFIES why I'm wandering.

Genesis 12:1; Genesis 15:1; Genesis 16:1,4

Proverbs 3:1-9, ¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity . . . ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight . . . ⁹ HONOR the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

2) God's wisdom is IMPARTED.

Proverbs 16:1-3, ¹ To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the LORD comes the proper answer of the tongue. ² All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD. ³ Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.

How to commit our ways to God:

- ❖ Learn and live God's Word. (Maturity)
- ❖ Lean on and obey the Holy Spirit. (Personal Direction)
- ❖ Live in unity with Mentors. (Safety)

Questions:

- 1) What did you hear from the Holy Spirit?
- 2) What will you do because of it?
- 3) How can we pray for you?