Biblical Decision-Making Guidelines

The Prerequisites:

- Establish the life-long goal to serve the Lord in a way/place that makes the greatest impact for the Kingdom.

- Consistently seek the Lord through Bible study, contemplation, prayer, discipleship, insight/counsel of others (i.e., mind your spiritual “P’s & Q’s”).

The Principles:

#1 Does your spiritual **gifting** align with the scenario you are considering?

#2 Does your personality, network, talent, experience, and culture, (i.e., “fit”) align with the scenario you are considering?

#3 Do you **desire** to actualize the scenario you are considering?

#4 Have you been given the **opportunity** to actualize the scenario you are considering?
Biblical Decision-Making

Resources

GBC SHAPE Material (see Bel Roberts/Pat Coyle)

DISC Profile (Buck Anderson; Brad Evans)

Spiritual Gift Profile: http://www.buildingchurch.net/g2s-i.htm

Interest/Skill Analysis:  
https://www.profiler.com/cgi-bin/ciss/moreform.pl?client=ncs&page=intro

Strengths Finder: http://www.strengthsfinder.com

*Charting a Bold Course: Training Leaders for 21st Century Leadership*
SUMMARY LISTS:

**Speaking and Serving Gifts**
- Evangelism
- Teaching
- Exhortation
- Administration
- Leadership
- Pastoring
- Discernment
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Giving
- Service
- Helps
- Mercy

**Authentication or Sign Gifts**
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Healings
- Miracles

**Foundational Gifts**
- Apostleship
- Prophecy

**Speaking and Serving Gifts**

**Evangelism** - The supernatural ability to proclaim God's message of reconciliation (the Gospel) to unbelievers and to do so positively and clearly, sensing opportunities to lead others to faith in Christ.

**Teaching** - The supernatural ability to give detailed understanding of truth (especially biblical), explaining and applying it in a way that readily motivates learning: which is the retaining and applying of the material for personal growth.

**Exhortation** - The supernatural ability to motivate or challenge God's people to positive action in their daily walk, especially when encouraging those who are confused, discouraged or wavering. Whether rebuking or encouraging, this is the ability to help bring out the best of another’s potential.  
*The “rebuking” aspect of this gift is also very similar to one aspect of the prophet’s ministry (the “forth-telling” of God’s truth in order to warn or rebuke). Many today will define prophecy in this way. For purposes of this paper, however, this will be referred to as exhortation.*

**Administration** - The supernatural ability to be keenly aware of the total resources at hand (including people) and to manage their optimum use (in an effective and efficient manner) so that a task, project or program is successfully accomplished.

**Leadership** - Supernatural ability to understand and communicate a vision and lead, motivate and direct people to work with/under you unto the accomplishment of it.

**Pastor** - The supernatural gifting which motivates one to assume a long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers (emphasizing spiritual care but, also possibly including elements of leadership or administration).
Discernment (Discerning of Spirits)- The supernatural ability to exercise consistent and strong insight which correctly perceives the presence of the Holy Spirit’s influence (or that of another) behind a person, their actions, situations, teachings, etc.

Wisdom (Word of Wisdom)- The supernatural ability to apply “truth” (the general body of God’s truth) in a way that leads to practical and positive living; and that can solve confusing situations which might not easily be resolved by any single truth.

Knowledge (Word of Knowledge)- The supernatural ability to search, understand, retain, arrange and summarize detailed (usually Scriptural) information. Theologians are an example.

Faith- The supernatural ability to have extraordinary trust in God's presence and power; to persevere in all situations with little or no hesitation to act or rest on this trust.

Giving- The supernatural motivation to experience enthusiasm, spontaneity, joy and purity of motive in wisely directing personal money and other resources to people and/or ministries with needs.

Service- The supernatural motivation to serve in a way that assists those in need and accomplishes needed tasks (particularly in serving in the church so as to provide other leaders opportunity to fulfill their ministry).

Helps- Like “service”, this is a supernatural motivation to render direct (probably physical) aid to a person in need. It is unlike “service” in that this is likely a more personal motivation to help, which is carried out without as much regard to being “in church” or “for its leaders”.

Mercy- Supernaturally motivated to have a uniquely strong identification with, compassion for and desire to help and comfort those in any kind of need, distress or affliction.

Foundational Gifts

Apostleship- Literally “an envoy sent with the authority of the sender.” “Apostle” was primarily a New Testament office (although the same word was used generally of “messengers”). Apostles were known by specific characteristics not totally duplicable today (II Cor. 12:12) and they were considered “foundational” to the church (Eph. 2:20). Some modern Spiritual Gift profiles often define the “spiritual gift of apostleship” as “the ability to do cross-cultural ministry with the goal of planting churches”.

Prophecy- The ability to speak God’s purposes with divine inspiration and with absolute accuracy in both forth-telling (boldly declaring truth) and fore-telling (prediction). The word is a compound with the literal meaning, “make manifest beforehand.” Like “apostle,” “prophet” was both an “office” and “foundational” to the church (Eph. 2:20). They spoke with divine authority as a mouthpiece of God. Some strongly argue that such “agents of God’s revelation” are no longer necessary (or are temporarily unnecessary) due to the closing of the Canon and the fact that end-times events have not yet begun. Regardless, any modern “prophet” should maintain absolute accuracy in foretelling (like Biblical prophets). Today, the spiritual gifting associated with prophecy is often defined as a “motivation to reveal sin and
proclaim truth.” This does not correspond in full to Biblical “prophecy”, and rather seems to be an aspect of exhortation.

Authentication Gifts

**Tongues**- Having the supernatural ability to speak in a known language (which is unknown to the speaker). It is notable that “gene” (various), a word also used to refer to “nations,” appears with “glossa” in the passage listing this gift. This is indicative that the “gift” refers to known languages.

**Interpretation of Tongues**- Having the supernatural ability to interpret the language spoken by one with the gift of tongues, even though the language being spoken was heretofore unknown by the interpreter.

**Healings**- Having the supernatural ability to be used of God to correct physical maladies in others and thereby bring glory to God. Could refer to the (non-supernatural) work of physicians, but the addition of “gifts of” to the term for healing (when it is not added to the other “gifts” in the list) seems to indicate a non-natural source of healing ability in the person with this gift.

**Miracles**- Having the supernatural ability to be used of God to enact manifestations unto His glory which are not explainable by natural means.
Biblical Decision-Making

The Usual Questions
✓ Choice of college
✓ Choice of church
✓ Job
✓ Move
✓ Marriage
✓ Kids

The Usual Suspects
✓ Pray about it
✓ Pro-Con List
✓ Seek God’s perfect will
✓ Sense His leading
✓ Open & closed doors
✓ Nike approach: “just do it”

Guidelines
• The Prerequisites
• The Principles

• The Prerequisites
✓ Establish the life-long goal to serve the Lord in a way/place that makes the greatest impact for the Kingdom.

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, "The sons of Israel shall camp, each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' households; they shall camp around the tent of meeting...
—Numbers 2:1-2

Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day.
—1 Kings 8:61

We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone.
Os Guinness, The Call

The intentional arrangement of one's life around the Person and Word of God is the essence of the Christian life.

The goal of my life is to know God better than I know anything else so that I can delight in Him more than anything else.

• Matt. 6:33a; Prov.16:3, 9; James 4:13-16; Eph.1:18; Phil.1:9-10; Col. 1:9)
Consistently seek the Lord through Bible study, contemplation, prayer, discipleship, insight/counsel of others, (i.e., mind your spiritual “P’s & Q’s”).

• **The Principles**
  Key: “Filter” decisions top to down

  ✓ Spiritual gifting
  ✓ Personal “fit”
  ✓ Desire
  ✓ Opportunity

• **The Principles**
  ✓ **Spiritual gifting**
    - Does your spiritual *gifting* align with the scenario you are considering?
    - 1 Cor 12-14; Rom 12; Eph 4; 1 Pet 4
    - Spiritual Gift handout

  ✓ **Personal “fit”**
    Does your personality, network, talent, experience, and culture, (i.e., “fit”) align with the scenario you are considering?
    - Personality - can I use my personality strategically in this new area?
    - Network - can I use my network strategically in this area?
    - Talent - can I use my talents & abilities strategically in this new area?
    - Experience/Culture - will I blend in with the people in this new area?

  ✓ **Desire**
    - Do you *desire* to actualize the scenario you are considering?
      “Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4)

  ✓ **Opportunity**
    - Have you been given the *opportunity* to actualize the scenario you are considering?
      - Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. (Col. 4:5)
      - But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. (Phil. 4:10)

  - In those areas specifically addressed by the Bible, the revealed commands & principles of God (His moral will = the Bible) are to be obeyed.

  - In those areas where the Bible gives no command or principle (non-moral decisions), the believer is **free and responsible** to choose his/her own course of action.
In non-moral decisions, the objective of the Christian is to make wise decisions he/she believes to be the most strategic and impact for the Kingdom of God.

In all decisions, the believer should humbly submit, in advance, to the outworking of God's sovereign will as it touches each decision.

Resources
- Decision Making & the Will of God (Garry Friesen)
- Decisions by the Book (Haddon Robinson)
- Found: God's Will (John MacArthur)
- Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion? (Bruce Waltke)
- The Mystery Of God's Will (Charles R. Swindoll)
- The Call (Os Guinness)
- Strength Finder 2.0 (Tom Rath)

Strengthfinders: Context, Belief, Developer, Responsibility, Achiever

Buildingchurch.net :
2. Apostle: 16 15. Leadership: 15
5. Ekballism: 5 18. Missionary: 15
13. Interpretation of Tongues: 0

1 Kings 8:61
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