

## 026: Discerning VS Deciding - With Chris Conrad

Discerning: Proverbs 3:5-6 – ‘Lean not on your own understanding.’

- So many pastors and leaders lean on their own understanding.
- We spend time doing what James 1 calls us to – asking God for wisdom...but then we go and do whatever WE think we ought to do and we move forward.

The Deciding mindset costs us SO MUCH!

***Human wisdom results in human results.  
Godly discernment results in supernatural power.***

When we rely on discernment that comes from Him, the results are that He gets all the honor and glory and we can step back and say, ‘only God could have done that!’

People can be saved when you decide... but you will see greater yield to the harvest when you discern!

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus had a way that He would have loved for the next 24 hours to go, but He surrendered His will to the Father. As a result, you and I get to experience salvation!

**Jesus prayed the prayer of indifference – I want Your Will over mine!**

- It does not mean that you are indifferent to the answer
- But it means that you surrender and say – Not my will but Yours!

Acts 1 – Peter and the disciples did pray, but then they decided that Matthias was going to be the next disciple... but never again do you hear the name of Matthias in the Bible.

Acts 13 – Holy Spirit spoke to the disciples out of prayer and fasting. They discerned **with** Holy Spirit that Paul and Barnabas were to go their own ways for the ministry of God. You hear their names multiple times as they turned the whole world upside down.

**We need to be tired of the names that are no longer mentioned and ideas that flounder and fail.**

**We need to want things to be turned upside for the glory of God!!**

Decisions happen quickly – Discernment often comes with great patience.

Acts 15 – Counsel of Jerusalem. “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us!”

- What is He inviting us into?
- What is He asking of us?

**Discernment can feel unproductive because it comes with waiting and listening. But these can be the most meaningful times when He downloads His thoughts and ways into you!**

- You won't hear His thoughts if you don't linger or have a commitment to discernment over decisions.

Most boards in our churches today feel like they are a business/political community.

- You were elected to the board so that you could petition Holy Spirit about what He wants for the church!
- You were placed in this position so that you could chase after Holy Spirit and ask Him what is He asking our church to do/calling our church to do?
- You were placed in this position for such a time as this.
- We do not represent the congregation.
- We represent God **to** the congregation!

If we are going to be Spirit anointed leaders – we need to chase after Him!

We need to stop rowing and start sailing with the wind of the Spirit, taking us to places that we could only get to with His Power!

***Let's not settle for decisions when we can experience discernment.***

**Additional Resources:**

[Hearing God – Dallas Willard](#)

[Pursuing God's Will Together](#)

[Leadership Board Resources](#)