



FIVE LIES THAT RUIN
RELATIONSHIPS

WRONG BELIEFS PRODUCE WRONG BEHAVIOR

CHIP INGRAM

FIVE LIES THAT RUIN RELATIONSHIPS: WRONG BELIEFS PRODUCE WRONG BEHAVIORS

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SESSION 6: HOW TO PURSUE GOD-GIVEN DREAMS

JAMES 4:15-17

What does God's will have to do with our work decisions?

In a word: *everything*.

Yet, for many of us, we brew our caffeine stimulant, grab the briefcase, jump in the car, and leave God on the front porch. The reasons are legion: we don't think God really cares about our daily business; it's too hard to discern His will; we assume our dreams and God's plans won't match; or we believe as long as we're upwardly mobile, He must be blessing me.

Someone once said, "I've sacrificed everything to climb up the corporate ladder, only to realize it was on the wrong wall." The author of Proverbs states, "In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make straight your paths" (3:6). We've probably all experienced the "crooked paths" when we neglect Him: the "perfect job" didn't pan out; the long hours didn't pay off; the stellar deal didn't come through. Just bringing God into our work decisions doesn't guarantee the stock will always rise, but we leave Him out at our own peril.

Whether you are the CEO of a Fortune 500 company or the CEO of two ankle biters, Chip presents four simple, yet extremely practical, steps for how to bring God into your work decisions. By the end, you'll never leave God on the front porch again.

VIDEO NOTES:

How Do We Make Wise Decisions About Work?

*Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins. **JAMES 4: 15-17** (NIV)*

1. Make _____ the foundation for all decision making. **v15**

2. Recognize the _____ of planning apart from God. **v16**

3. Don't buy the _____ .

_____ WORK OPPORTUNITIES
ARE AUTOMATICALLY THE WILL OF GOD

4. Act on your God-given dreams and impulses. **v17**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What impacted you the most from this session?
2. Why is it difficult to believe that God has our best interests in mind?
3. When have you experienced God's help in a decision made at work?
4. Have you ever turned down something that was considered “upwardly mobile”?
What helped you make that decision? How was it perceived by others?
5. What practical tip from Chip will you apply to your work decisions this week?

SESSION 6: KEYS

**THOUGH IT'S
DIFFICULT TO
BELIEVE, GOD
DOES HAVE OUR
BEST INTERESTS
AT HEART**

**WE TEND TO
BELIEVE THE
LIE THAT ANY
UPWARDLY MOBILE
OPPORTUNITY IS
AUTOMATICALLY
GOD'S WILL**

“Belief that divine guidance is real rests upon two foundation-facts: first, the reality of God’s plan for us; second, the ability of God to communicate with us. On both these facts the Bible has much to say.”

J. I. PACKER

ACTION STEPS:

Think about how we view God. We say He is good. We say He is our Father. But how often do we believe that with our head yet deny it with our hearts?

Take a few moments to meditate on this verse:

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

PSALM 84:11 (NASB)

What would change in your life if you actually believed God was “for you”?

AT HOME:

A noted Bible scholar, F.B. Meyer, once said, “When we want to know God’s will, there are three things which always occur: the inward impulse, the Word of God, and the trend of circumstances.... Never act until these three things agree.” Sometimes we make “discerning God’s will” out to be harder than it is.

Chip listed four easy steps to help in knowing God’s will on a particular decision:

1. Ask yourself, “Am I willing? Do I have an open heart?”
2. Pray
3. Look for a promise in God’s Word
4. Seek wise counsel (**Proverbs 13:20**)

What decisions are you facing this week? Which steps do you need to put into practice? Take a moment to write these four steps on a note card and keep them with you throughout your work week.

MEMORY VERSE: JAMES 4:13-14 (NASB)

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.

SESSION 6 NOTES: HOW TO PURSUE GOD-GIVEN DREAMS

LEADER'S GUIDE

KEY POINTS

1. Though it's difficult to believe, God does have our best interests at heart
2. We tend to believe the lie that any upwardly mobile opportunity is automatically God's will

VIDEO NOTES

ANSWER KEY:

How Do We Make Wise Decisions About Work?

1. Make **God's will** the foundation for all decision making. v15
2. Recognize the **root cause** of planning apart from God. v16
3. Don't buy the **lie**.

THE LIE: UPWARDLY MOBILE WORK OPPORTUNITIES ARE AUTOMATICALLY THE WILL OF GOD.

NOTES FOR DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What impacted you the most from this session?
This question is designed to invite discussion about key points that Chip raised during this session.
2. Why is it difficult to believe that God has our best interests in mind?
Though the Psalmist says that God “will withhold no good thing (see Psalm 84:11) to His children, we tend to see God as a judge waiting to see if we do good and then He will reward us. Why is this thinking dangerous to believers?
3. When have you experienced God's help in a decision made at work?
Hopefully this question will help people see that God does indeed want to be in the details of our life and our work decisions.
4. Have you ever turned down something that was considered “upwardly mobile”? What helped you make that decision? How was it perceived by others?
This question will again tackle the issue of why “upwardly mobile” decisions are not always the best. People tend to make these kinds of decisions because of what it will do for them in the eyes of others.
5. What practical tip from Chip will you apply to your work decisions this week?
There are no right or wrong answers here, just an honest commitment to apply a key point from this session into the day to day.

ACTION STEPS

As we saw back up in question 2, people have a hard time viewing the all-powerful, all-knowing God as a Father who wants to bestow good gifts on His children. Tell your group to avoid false humility and worrying about what others may think of their responses. Anything goes! People are free to dream about what might change if God was really for them – which He is!

AT HOME

There are no accidents if you believe in a sovereign God. Therefore, chances are someone in your group is probably facing a big decision. This exercise is great for those who are undergoing a major life change or those who just need to invite God into the process of their day-to-day life. As one church leader said, “God waits to be wanted.”