

DAILY DECISIONS & THE WILL OF GOD

Dr. Stuart Scott

Feb.
16-19

2024 Winter Retreat

This booklet belongs to _____



CORNERSTONE
BIBLE CHURCH

Schedule

Friday

- 05:30 PM Check-in & Registration (dinner on your own)
- 08:00 PM Fellowship & Snacks [Almond/the Gym](#)
- 11:00 PM Site Quiet Time

Saturday

- 08:00 AM Breakfast [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 09:30 AM Session #1 [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 12:00 PM Lunch [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 01:00 PM Free Time
 - 1:30 PM Basketball [Gym](#)
 - 2-3 PM Archery Session #1 [Archery Range](#)
 - 3-4 PM Archery Session #2 [Archery Range](#)
- 05:30 PM Dinner [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 06:45 PM Session #2 [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 09:00 PM Women’s Fellowship [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 11:00 PM Site Quiet Time

Sunday

- 08:00 AM Breakfast [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 09:30 AM Session #3 & Communion [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 11:00 AM Church Photo [Sports Field](#)
- 12:00 PM Lunch [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 01:00 PM Free Time
 - 1:30 PM Arts & Crafts Session [Hyssop 1](#)
 - 2-3 PM Archery Session #3 [Archery Range](#)
 - 3-4 PM Archery Session #4 [Archery Range](#)
- 05:30 PM Dinner [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 06:45 PM Session #4 [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 09:00 PM ROOTS Campfire [Fire Circle](#)
- 11:00 PM Site Quiet Time

Monday

- 08:00 AM Breakfast [Cedar Lodge](#)
- 10:00 AM Session #5 [Engedi Lodge/Chapel](#)
- 11:00 AM Check-out Time
- 12:00 AM Lunch [Cedar Lodge](#)

About Dr. Stuart Scott

Professor of Biblical Counseling, Bob Jones University and Seminary



Professor of Biblical Counseling,
The Master’s University
Fellow, Association of Certified
Biblical Counselors (ACBC)
D.Min., Covenant Theological
Seminary
Th.M., The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
M.Div., Grace Theological
Seminary
B.A., Columbia International
University

Dr. Stuart Scott teaches biblical counseling at Bob Jones University and Seminary in Greenville, South Carolina. He also teaches adjunctly at The Master’s University graduate and post-graduate programs in Santa Clarita, California. He brings more than 35 years of experience in counseling and pastoral ministry, including nine years as associate pastor of family ministries and counseling at Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, CA, serving under John MacArthur. He serves currently as the Member Care Director and a Fellow with the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC).

Dr. Scott is the author of *The Exemplary Husband; From Pride to Humility; Communication and Conflict Resolution; Anger, Fear and Anxiety; Biblical Manhood, Leadership and Decision Making; The Faithful Parent: A Biblical Guide for Parenting* (co-authored with Martha Peace); and most recently, *Killing Sinful Habits: Conquering Sin with Radical Faith* (co-authored with his wife, Zondra Scott). He has contributed to *Think Biblically, Christianity and Counseling – Five Approaches* and co-edited *Counseling the Hard Cases*.

Dr. Scott and his wife Zondra have been married for over 36 years and have two grown children, Christa and Marc, and two grandchildren. They currently live in Greenville, South Carolina.

Retreat Admin Contact Info

Huey Dang*	Admin	(714) 328-5304
Melissa Wang*	Admin	(626) 807-6938
Adam Bakonis	Admin	(909) 367-5986
John Rhee	Admin	(714) 310-7885
Evan Nagayama*	Medical	(562) 833-8344

*Verizon Wireless

Free Time Activities

Archery	2-3 and 3-4 PM on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Sign up at the registration table.
Mini Golf & Horseshoes	Mini golf and horseshoes are available during office hours at the Oak Glen Office.
Gym and Snack Bar	The gym and snack bar will be open throughout free time. Water and coffee are available in the snack bar.
Arts & Crafts	1:30 PM on Sunday at Hyssop 1. We are making pressed flower lanterns. The materials fee is \$5.

Rules

1. Quiet time is from 11:00 PM – 7:00 AM.
2. Please turn in the Oak Glen and CBC liability forms to the Retreat team.
3. Rooms must be checked out by 11:00 AM on Monday morning.
4. Hot food, fast food, microwavable food is not permitted on the grounds. Hot food will be served in the cafeteria. Sealed, pre-packaged food is permitted on the grounds, but please dispose of all trash in the bear-safe trash cans. Open food containers must not be kept in sleeping rooms.
5. Please leave the sleeping and meeting rooms as neat as you found them.
6. Meal times are sharp, so please be prompt to arrive.

Beliefs & Practices

Decisions, Decisions. How to Know and Do God’s Will

Deut. 29:29; Ps. 19:7-14, 119:105, 143:10; Isa. 46:9-10; Matt. 12:50; Eph 1:11, 5:17ff; Col. 1:9-14; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Heb. 10:36, 13:20-21; 2 Pet. 1:3ff; 1 John 2:17, 5:14-15

1. Importance of Knowing and Doing God's Will

1. Beliefs About It and Current Practices

Study, Meditation & Prayer

The Vital Place of Study, Meditation, and Prayer. Accurately Interpreting God’s Revealed Will

1. Principles

- a. Literary Principle
- b. Historical Principle
- c. Grammatical Principle
- d. Synthesis Principle
- e. Practical Principle

2. Two Aspects of God’s Will

- a. God’s Decretive (Sovereign) Will
- b. God’s Preceptive (Revealed) Will

God's Will

Deliverance or Dependence? God's Grace in Ongoing Trials

2 Cor. 12:7-10

1. We should _____ that God's goodness to us is the soil in our lives where either humility or pride can grow. Humility is the only mindset that magnifies Christ.

2. God always has the perfect _____ to guard us from our potential uselessness and fruitlessness. He knows what we need to be more conformed into the likeness of Christ.

3. The most common, natural and understandable response to a painful trial is to _____ deliverance from the Lord. We don't always know what will magnify Christ more, so there is nothing wrong per se to request deliverance.

4. Often, God's _____ to our petitions may be that ongoing dependence on Christ for strength is his good, acceptable and perfect will. Often, ongoing suffering is God's way to magnify Christ in our lives.

4. Our _____ by God's continuing grace is to be one of embracing God's will with joy. We resolve to magnify Christ by relying on "his strength" in our "weakness."

What Not To Do

Examining Popular Ways to Know and Do God’s Will

Methods and motives to either avoid using, be cautious of or not see as normative for Christians today:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Misuing the Bible | 8. An Audible Voice | 18. Pseudo Faith |
| 2. Personal Advice
(without checking it out) | 9. Misusing Prayer | 19. Fasting |
| 3. Circumstances /
Results | 10. Inner Peace | 20. The “Call” (all
experienced based) |
| 4. Setting Up Conditions
(Fleeces) | 11. Devices | 21. Small Group
(“...where two or three are
gathered...”) |
| 5. Opened and Closed
Doors | 12. Signs | 22. Prophecy (modern
day) |
| 6. Ideas, Inner Feelings,
Desires, and Impressions | 13. Isolation | 23. Over analysis (on
unimportant) |
| 7. “Led by the Spirit” | 14. Dreams | 24. Etc. |
| | 15. “Waiting” on the Lord | |
| | 16. Conscience | |
| | 17. Reason (relying on) | |

What To Do

Examining a Biblical Way to Know and Do God's Will

1. Prerequisites for Biblical Decision-Making

a. Be rightly related to Christ by responding by grace through faith to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:14-21).

b. Pursue a life of worshipping and glorifying God (John 4:23-24; 2 Cor. 5:9; Phil. 1:21, 3:10-14; Col. 1:9-12; 1 Cor. 10:31).

c. Recognize God's sovereignty over all (Ps. 115:3, 8; Eph. 1:11, 5:17; James 4:13-16; Prov. 16:9; Rom. 8:28-29). God's sovereignty works in sync with (never apart from) all His other attributes (goodness, wisdom, etc.).

d. Take responsibility for your choices (Ezek. 18). God will not obey for you. He will hold you responsible (2 Cor. 5:9-10).

2. Methodology and Process (these all interrelate).

a. **Submit:** Humbly pray for wisdom as you gather data.

i. Continually have a humble, yielded, and dependent will before God (Rom. 12:1-2). This would be reflected in the prayer request "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done..." (Matt. 6:10, Luke 22:42).

1. Remember that knowing and doing God's Will is "so that we might walk worthily as unto the Lord..." (Col. 1:9-14)

ii. Continually pray for wisdom – for the Spirit to assist you in bringing Scripture to apply to the situation (James 1:5).

1. Gather as much of the factual data as you can to make a wise decision (Prov. 18:13). The amount of time spent on this process often depends on the weight of the decision (e.g. Jesus choosing the twelve in Luke 6:12).

b. **Commands:** Study any direct commands in Scripture concerning this particular issue (2 Tim. 2:15, 3:15-17). This may take on the form of positive commands or the form of prohibitions. (Make use of a Bible concordance, Topical Bible (with caution), and other Bible reference books.)

c. **Principles:** Study the applicable principles in Scripture concerning this issue (2 Tim. 2:15, 3:15-17). Wisdom is at its purest in Scripture and then starts to rely more on human reasoning, advice, and experience after that (obviously less reliable). This is one of the most neglected areas of decision-making. (Many of these questions below are from The Discipline of Grace, Jerry Bridges, 213.)

i. A Walk With Christ

1. Is this something I can thank God for? (Rom. 14:6, 1 Cor. 10:30, Col. 3:17)

2. Is this something that will glorify God? (1 Cor. 10:31, 2 Cor. 5:9)

3. Is this following the example of Christ? (Rom. 15:7-8, 1 Cor. 11:1, 1 John 2:6)

4. Is this beneficial? Does it promote my spiritual life?

5. Is this a practice that over time will tend to master me? Will it stimulate a desire that will be difficult to control?

6. Is this an occasion where my "flesh" (sinfulness) is seeking to indulge itself? (Gal. 5:13)

ii. Influence On Others

1. Is this worth imitating? (1 Cor. 11:1, Phil. 4:9)
2. Are you not seeking outside counsel due to wanting what you want? (Prov 18:1-2, 24:6)
3. Is it self-serving at the expense of someone else's benefit? (Rom. 15:1-2, 1 Cor. 10:33, Gal. 5:13, Phil. 2:1-4)
4. Will my choice affect others around me? If so, in what way?
5. Is it constructive? Will it promote the spiritual wellbeing of other believers if they engage in this practice that is permissible for me?

ii. Need

1. Is there an opportunity to do this? Does God appear to be orchestrating circumstances (providence) to provide you with the opportunity to do this? (2 Cor. 2:12-13, Gal. 6:10)

d. **Desires:** Affirm that your desires are God-honoring (Ps. 37:4, John 15:7).

- i. What do I want ("wish") to do? Will it bring glory to God? (1 Cor. 7:36, 39, 10:24, 31)

e. If you still can't decide, then **hold**:

- i. Rom. 14:23, Heb. 11:25 ("holding principle" = if it involves the troubled conscience - you might possibly sin in moving ahead).
- ii. Or, possibly go back and gather more data – both in the initial data gathering or in the commands and principles of Scripture

f. **Decide:** Humbly and dependently make your decision and trust God to providentially direct or redirect your steps. (Prov. 16:9, Acts 6:7)

3. Practically Applied

a. Key Issues within Life and Marriage

- i. Further education
- ii. Choosing a church
- iii. Choosing where to serve at church
- iv. Vocation choices
- v. Schooling choices
- vi. Singleness or marriage
- vii. Renting or buying
- viii. Living alone or with roommates
- ix. When to have children
- x. Have more children
- xi. Adopt/foster care
- xii. Supporting an adult child
- xiii. Dealing with a special needs' child
- xiv. Relocation (job, church, family)
- xv. Birth control
- xvi. Finances (spending, saving and giving)
- xvii. Wife working outside of the home (when children are in home)
- xviii. Buying a car
- xix. Stay at home dad (mom works outside of home)
- xx. Caring for parent(s)
- xxi. Dealing with in-laws

- xxii. Transitioning to being an in-law
- xxiii. Transitioning to "empty nest"
- xxiv. Transitioning to adult children coming back home
- xxv. Parenting adult children
- xxvi. Wayward children
- xxvii Dealing with chronic illness
- xxviii. Sexual intimacy issues (what's allowed, how often, etc.)
- xxix. Emotional friendships with the same or opposite sex
- xxx. Being faithful with the right priorities in daily tasks
- xxxi. Ministry issues (where to serve, separate, together)
- xxxii. Getting a pet(s)

b. Decision-Making Principles (sample)

i. Stewardship

1. Finances (2 Cor. 8-9, avoiding debt – Ps. 37:21, Prov. 22:7)
2. Time (Ps. 90:12, Eph. 5:16)
3. Priorities (Martha and Mary - Luke 10:38-42, Jer. 2:13, Rev. 2:5)
4. Rest and Margin (Ex. 20:8-11, Prov. 21:20, 22:3, Paul in Acts – weeks to months in between the verses)
5. Exercise (Self-control like an athlete – 1 Cor. 9:27)
6. Eating (Ecclus. 10:16-17, Col. 2:16, 2 Thess. 3:6-15, 1 Tim. 4:3-5)

ii. Working

1. Created for (Ex. 20:8-11)
2. Attitude while working (Col. 3:17, 23-24)
3. Provision (1 Tim. 5:8, Eph. 5:29)
4. To give to others (Generosity – Eph. 4:25; 1 John 3:17)
5. To save (Prov. 6:6, 30:25)

iii. Relationship Principles

1. Communication (Proverbs, Eph. 4:25-32)
2. Conflict resolution (Rom. 12:18; Eph. 4:25-32)
3. Loving and serving (Putting other's interests before self – Phil. 2:1-11)
4. Who to marry (as a Christian) (1 Cor. 7:29, 2 Cor. 6:14)

iv. Put off and put on principles (Eph. 4:22-31, Col. 3)

v. Hospitality (commands and principles) (Heb. 13:2, 1 Pet. 4:9)

vi. Self-control (1 Cor. 9:27, Titus 2:2-14)

vii. Seek godly counsel (Prov. 15:22)

viii. Being humble and teachable (Ps. 32:8-9, Ps. 99, Phil. 2:1-11)

ix. Honor and respecting others (Rom. 12:10)

x. Contentment (Ex. 20:17, Matt. 6:25, Phil. 4:11-12, Heb. 13:5)

xi. Walk on earth with eternal focus (Matt. 6:33, 2 Cor. 4:16-18, Col. 3:1-2, Heb 12:1-3)

OAK GLEN

Christian
Conference
Center

P Parking

 Restrooms

(S) Shower

 Accessibility








 Dining Hall

 Driveways

 Walkways

 One-way

 Activities

-  Sessions
-  Infants & Little Pebbles
-  Big Pebbles
-  ROCK
-  Fellowship
-  Activities
-  Meals

