

FOUR: THE CERTAIN DECISION *I have a decided heart.*

*I have a decided heart. **The Certain Decision** for personal success is what fuels your actions from the **Active Decision**. The clarity of vision you maintain in your mind is directly proportional to the effectiveness of your actions. A decided heart is unwavering in the face of continual challenges and setbacks, and that ensures victory and a lifetime of greater fulfillment.*

*Criticism, condemnation, and complaints are creatures of the wind. They come and go on the wasted breath of lesser beings and have no power over me. With **the Certain Decision**, we learn to break through fear and judgment to pursue our dreams with determination and focus. With a decided heart, we set our course and assure our destiny.*

Truth is truth. If a thousand people believe something foolish, it is still foolish! Truth is never dependent upon consensus of opinion.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS - said: "I have found that it is better to be alone and acting upon the truth in my heart than to follow a gaggle of silly geese doomed to mediocrity."

The Certain Decision is the fourth decision that determines personal success

A wise man once said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Knowing this to be true, I am taking my first step today.

1. I have a decided heart.

Dr. Billy Graham - brilliantly noted, "I'm always amazed at how many people in trouble confuse God's will for their life with plain old bad decision making."

The wisdom in that statement is profound, revealing how many people misunderstand the **Certain Decision**. My destiny is assured. So what is a decided heart? A decided heart has to do with how we make decisions and our conduct after that decision is made; it has nothing to do with action or persistence. We all know people who get locked into endless analysis, never moving past the decision-making avalanche.

Do you know people who are absolutely sure that God has led them down a certain path until it gets tough, and then they're just as sure that God has led them in the opposite direction? If you know people who are determined to live their lives in that netherworld of wishy-washy decision making, tell them God said to leave Him out of it! God doesn't change His mind. Did you know that even the Bible says wishy-washy people are dangerous? "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).

An indecisive person allows instability into every part of his life. It touches everything—our families, our businesses, our hopes, and our dreams.

2. The Purpose of Analysis

Andrew Jackson - former USA president, said, "Take time to be deliberate, but when the time for action arrives, stop thinking and go in!"

You can't possibly gather enough information to make right decisions all the time. God however, made us with the ability to make a decision and then go about the business of making it right.

You need to study your goal. You need to know what you are doing. You need to analyze your activities. But get this: the purpose of analysis is to come to a **conclusion!!!!** It's not to continue to analyze. Get to it! To repeat what I've said before, successful people make their decisions quickly and change their minds slowly. Unsuccessful people make their decisions slowly and change their minds quickly.

Many people spend so much time analyzing the decisions they have already made that they don't have any energy left to actually **do** what they decided! The prospect of making a "right decision" scares people. I don't believe we can make right decisions all the time unless we were born with the ability to tell the future. I won't believe fortune tellers until I see a newspaper headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery". Unless you can tell the future, you couldn't possibly gather enough information to make right decisions all the time. God did however make us with the ability to make a decision and then go about the business of making it right.

The endless opinion-gathering process and uncertainty gathers momentum, like a snowball rolling downhill, getting bigger and bigger as the analysis gets more complex. When they finally make a decision, the analysis continues. Although there are questions that cannot be answered, they can be decided. Remember, most of the time you won't have all the facts you need to give you a complete picture. You will, however, have all the facts you need to make a decision.

Illustration – Five young people want to eat out, but where? "Where do you want to go eat?" "I don't know". "Where do you want to go eat?" "Truly . . . wherever you want to go . . ."

Note: that the people who make a decision and then make it right are the people we admire in our society. They have decided hearts, and their destiny is assured.

3. Finding Your Vision

All my problems become smaller when I confront them. If I touch a thistle with caution, it will prick me, but if I grasp it boldly, its spines crumble into dust.

It's going to be a struggle to maintain a decided heart; otherwise what you're struggling for isn't worth the struggle in the first place!

Linus Pauling, a Nobel Prize recipient in chemistry, said, "*The best way to get a good idea is to get a lot of ideas.*"

If you worry about what other people think of you, you will have more confidence in their opinion than your own.

Most people fail at whatever they attempt because of an undecided heart.

Success requires the emotional balance of a committed heart. When confronted with a challenge, the committed heart will search for a solution. The undecided heart searches for an escape.

With decided hearts, we learn to defy conventional standards with a childlike playfulness.

We can actually develop a sense of excitement that triggers action in the face of criticism and rejection, breeding solutions and movement toward what we want instead of what we don't want.

It awakens a burning desire and relentless determination when the odds are stacked against us.

Spain - One of the richest gold nations ever was in Central America. They had gold everywhere, so much gold that they used it to burry people. Naturally for several centuries many other nations tried to get that gold. None was successful. All of them were defeated. Then came a Spaniard named Admiral Cortez. He came across the ocean determined to get that gold. They landed and asked what do we do next? How shall we attack? Cortez shouted, "Burn the boats." "Excuse me?!" they replied incredulously. Cortez repeated, "Burn the boats. Torch the boats." "If we go home," he added, "we're going home in their boats." And on their leader's orders, they burned their own boats! Can you guess what happened next? Can you guess who won the battle? Can you guess who got the gold?

Burning Our Boats - The question for you is simple: What boats in your mind continue to float the excuses and limiting beliefs that are keeping you from getting what you say you want?

Look at splitting the over 40 from the under 40. Look at the whole list of last evening.

What boats in your life do you need to burn? Most of us are scared to burn boats because we know we'll get criticized if we do.

4. Living a Life of Unlimited Possibility

We're journeying toward a destiny that is assured because we have decided hearts. Grab hold of your dream for your life, your family, and your future. Don't make choices based on facts or percentages—they'll always discourage you. I feel sad for the people who consider themselves "realistic." They live their lives according to what is. Please throw "what is" out the window. Forget "what is." Let's **start living life with what if.**

All my problems become smaller when I confront them. If I touch a thistle with caution, it will prick me, but if I grasp it boldly, its spines crumble into dust.

If you could choose a perfect day, what would it look like? How early would you get up? How late would you sleep? Who would you choose to be around? And where on earth would you be?

The Certain Decision reminds us: you have the power to choose how you live your life because you have a decided heart and your destiny is assured.

Choose wisely, and remember, most people fail because of an undecided heart. That is not you. Determine that you have a decided heart, and your success will require the emotional fortitude of that decided heart.

When confronted with a challenge, a decided heart searches for a solution—it is only the undecided heart that searches for an escape. You can't afford to wait for conditions to be exactly right.

Why not? **Because conditions are never exactly right!** You have vision for a reason. Your dream for your life and your family's is in your heart for a reason.

That passion is a part of you. So, go! Proceed! Don't ask permission anymore. Take it! Go! To wait, to wonder, to doubt, or to be indecisive is to deny the world of who you are and who you will become.

You have a decided heart, and your destiny is assured.

Norman Schwarzkopf - "Success without adversity is not only empty
- - - it is not possible"

5. Thriving on Rejection

Have you ever been criticized for something you believed or for something you've done with good intentions or because you're different? Doesn't it hurt? It's a horrible feeling. Do you want to find out right now how to overcome criticism and that awful feeling of being criticized?

Do you ever wonder if anybody in the world gets a pass? Is there anybody in the world that everybody likes? NONE – Not even mother Teresa.

When we are bothered by criticism, what we most need is a good dose of perspective. So, here is ours. Folks . . . the critics are bad-mouthing every famous Godly believer like Billy Graham and Mother Teresa! Who are we to be exempt? We must accept it for what it is . . . the babbling of rabble who ultimately cannot help you or do harm. Ignore them.

Poor is the man whose future depends on the opinions and permission of others.

Remember this: if you are afraid of criticism, you will die doing nothing!

Success without adversity is not only empty . . . **it is not possible.**

GOD HAS ILLUSTRATED THE DECIDED HEART PRINCIPLE THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE PROPHETS AND APOSTLES