

Lead or follow - but either way make a decision.

Proverbs 3:5-8

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.

NKJV

The quality of your life will be determined by the quality of decisions you make in the everyday of life. Many people have difficulty in making decisions and, as a result of their indecisiveness, they end up living frustrated and unfulfilled lives. Sometimes people don't even recognise their indecisiveness as being a problem. Leadership is all about making decisions, decisions that either affect you, those serving under your leadership, or affect the entire organisation and its future. For some people making decisions is natural, as some possess strength, inner peace and self-confidence, whereas others lack these traits with debilitating effect. Often people do tend to realise in themselves when they are being indecisive but become frustrated, however, because they do not know how to overcome or cure it. Below is a description of a variety of thinking patterns which daily, bring fear, limitation and containment, not only to a leader's life, but more so to everyone's lives within close proximity. Whether you are a family person feeling uncomfortable with making decisions, or whether a pastor, manager or marketplace leaders, decisions in the everyday of life have to be made and made with certainty and with confidence.

A study, by Dr. Theodore Rubin, has identified several types of what is termed as "**Pseudo-decisions**". These pseudo-decisions, which when understood, become really helpful in helping us to recognise not only our individual personal weakness, but helpful in showing us how they can damage and limit us in our leadership role and function. They describe to us the ways in which people tend to typically react when they can't seem to make up their minds. See which one best describes you and your leadership decision making.

- **Procrastination** - We decide to "wait and see what happens" or "think about it some more." Procrastination can paralyse performance.
- **Ambivalence** - This occurs when we feel all of the options are of equal value, or when we feel that because none of the options are perfect we can't decide.
- **Impulsiveness** - Impulsive decisions are not real decisions. They are a desperate attempt to "just do something" in order to relieve fear, anxiety, guilt, or boredom. Impulsive decisions have a nasty habit of turning into disasters.
- **Co-dependency** - This happens when you develop the habit of always letting someone else decide for you. You yield your freedom of choice in exchange for false security.
- **Non-conformity** - Some people mask their insecurity by always deciding to do the opposite of whatever others do. They are compulsive rebels. They think they are expressing independence but actually they aren't. They are simply reactors. They have to wait and see what others will do first before they can make a move.
- **Partial commitment** - These people try to walk on both sides of the road at the same time. They may call it "keeping my options open" but actually it is immaturity being demonstrated in fence-sitting. It's another way of avoiding a real decision.
- **Nostalgia** - You spend so much time thinking about the past and "what might have been" that you avoid making the tough decisions you need to make today.

The challenge here is to discover which temperament best describes you in your leadership role. Remember that if it affects you, it also affects those under your leadership also. To "*acknowledge*" that you have an individual particular pseudo-decision style is but only the first step in seeing change; making a different choice however becomes the real step to change. To define highlighting why any particular thinking pattern should dominate ones leadership is very productive. To become aware of one's inner potential weakness, creating the necessary strategy useful for overcoming it, is to free oneself from inner fear and insecurity.