

## **Stop, Pray, Think, Act**

Sometimes in life things are not always what they seem, and we can easily believe that the “grass is greener” somewhere else. Because of this, we need God’s wisdom and guidance when making decisions. We are called to seek discernment through prayer and not allow the opinions of others to lead us away from what God desires. The Israelites in Samuel’s time failed to do this. Although God warned them about the consequences of having a king, they wanted to be like the surrounding nations. Believing they knew better, they rejected God’s rule and demanded a human king instead. What seemed to offer security and success eventually brought suffering, as many kings served themselves rather than the people. Yet, despite Israel’s failures, God remained faithful and ultimately redeemed the situation through Jesus, the promised King foretold in Isaiah 9:6–7, whose reign would bring peace and everlasting authority. This reminds us that God’s purposes will prevail, but our poor choices can make life far more difficult than it needs to be. Scripture repeatedly encourages us to trust God rather than rely solely on our own understanding. Proverbs 3:5–6 calls us to trust in the Lord wholeheartedly, while Psalm 119:105 describes God’s Word as a lamp to guide our path. Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit would teach and guide believers. Therefore, we should never make major decisions hastily or under emotional pressure. Instead, we are encouraged to stop, pray, think carefully about the consequences, seek wise counsel, and only then act. Proverbs teaches that wise people listen to advice, and James 1:5 reminds us that God generously gives wisdom to those who ask. Many people regret hasty decisions because some consequences cannot easily be undone. However, when we fail, we are called to take responsibility, seek God’s forgiveness, and trust Him to work through the situation in His time. God is able to bring good even out of our mistakes. The lesson is clear: short-term gain can lead to long-term pain, so we must learn to “Stop, Pray, Think, and then Act,” trusting God to guide our paths.