



DECISION: MAKING UP YOUR MIND

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I was thinking about the subject on what to write when I suddenly remembered a famous saying. The famous and well known, Plato, once said "A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers". It was during high school when my Social Studies teacher told us to do a brainstorming activity using a guided pattern as part of her teaching strategy. I could clearly recall what I have shared with the group that a practical decision is more likely to make with no numerical knowledge than with numbers. I also emphasized that there's no such thing as a good decision. It's because numbers could be considered a subset of knowledge. For example, if you could quantify the value of choosing, for example, the right person to marry to share your happiness in life, then numbers could be invaluable in the procurement of a good decision. The problem lay with the fact that there's no mathematical formula available for calculating the acquisition of happiness, therefore, knowledge and intuition must be employed. However, it could have been a biased opinion if I would not have understood other ideas and concepts of my classmates. A viewpoint, on the other side, a person is much more likely to make a logical decision with numbers than non-numerical knowledge and he can choose to value the essence of logic over practical matters.

As years have gone by, decision making was always a part of me and it is still until as of this writing. Our cognitive skills are always at stake to arrive a specific decision, if not an accurate one. I cannot understand that sometimes decision simply means a judgment. It may be a quick conclusion or people regard a notion "you jumped to a conclusion". This hasty finding is considered useless. It's wrong, inaccurate and no sense at all. Other people will disagree simply because it was not a good decision. In this way, we feel regret. We should remember that every decision making process produces a final result, a final outcome and this will lead into action. It is a fact that we should be very careful in analyzing both sides. One side maybe favorable and the other one is unfavorable. You halt into a fifty-fifty situation and you consider these questions and ask yourself "Which is more important? Which is better? Which is more appropriate?" The ability to decide is a great factor to think about. You should have sufficient knowledge to weigh things in all aspects. According to Jim Nightingale, author of Think Smart-Act Smart, "we simply decide without thinking much about the decision process." It means to say that, most decisions are made unconsciously. In addition to his viewpoint, he explained that in a controlled environment, such as a classroom, instructors encourage students to weigh pros and cons before making a decision. However in the real world, most of our decisions are made unconsciously in our mind because frankly, it would take too much time to sit down and list the pros and cons of each decision we must make on a daily basis.

Whatever ways that we have to come up a decision are key factors and essentials to reach a good and wise decision. We need them in order to attain a partial judgment. A well decision is a product of careful and intellectual analysis. It is the beat of our hearts and the control of our minds that provide the final conclusion. We need time to give a result. It is not a one-step process to understand the whole scenario. How do you make up your mind to give the final verdict in a certain situation is what decision calls for a reliable and truthful result!

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you mean by "a good decision"? Use your own ideas/opinions.
2. Why do we need to have a careful analysis before giving a decision?
3. How does decision making affect your life?
4. Why is decision making important?
5. Explain this maxim by Plato: "A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers".