

VIII. CASE STUDIES

Case Study #1

John, an account executive with a high technology computer firm, is doing well with his company. He is well respected and a vital part of the company's future. Another high company, not a direct competitor, comes to John with an offer to double his salary, an increase in benefits, and more travel. John's company sensing that they may lose John asks, "What will it take to keep you?"

John struggles and debates the decision.

QUESTIONS

1. What counsel would you give John?
2. What questions would you ask John?
3. How would you help John determine the call of God in this situation?
4. Does God really care about the outcome of the decision?

Finally John opts for greener pastures and a greener wallet.

5. Is John in the will of God?

Case Study # 2

Pete is a hard working, diligent employee. He works for a manufacturing business, yet it is in an industry that has no growth or opportunity. Pete has tried to share about Christ in the office with no fruit that is evident. In his job, he faces many difficulties with his boss. He has been passed over for promotion, and faces stagnation or decline in salary. Pete loves to teach the Bible and often wonders “maybe God is calling me into full-time Christian work because my circumstances are so bad.”

QUESTIONS

1. What counsel would you give Pete?
2. How would you help him determine God’s call?
3. Should Pete simply stay put like in 1 Cor. 7?
4. How does God use circumstances to help determine the call of God?
5. Is Pete suffering from thinking that full-time ministry is a higher calling?

Case Study #3

Mike, an executive with a large ministry, is seeing God at work making an impact in the lives of many. He loves what he is doing, yet as a family they are struggling to make ends meet because of medical bills and relatively low ministry pay. Another ministry is doing a search for a young, bold executive who will help the ministry connect with the next generation. They offer Mike the position which includes a 50% salary increase and more responsibility. Mike's business friends encourage him to make the move - obviously, God is blessing him. Mike is concerned that his ministry relationships will figure he is going for the money.

QUESTIONS

1. What counsel would you give Mike?
2. How can Mike know where God Has called him?
3. Is there a double standard concerning money as it relates to changing a position in ministry versus business?
4. How much of a factor should the money be?
5. How does Mike sort through his own motives?