

Pathwork on  
**Making Decisions in Life**

This quote from Lecture 29 helps us make decisions in life by sorting out our pure motivations from our many false motivations.

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| 35 | QUESTION: Does that mean that whatever we want to do, we always have to ask God, "Is this Thy will?" Or do you have to see whether it does not deviate from God's law?   |
| 36 | ANSWER: I would suggest this: In the first place, when you are on this path, you begin to make an inventory about your own person, as I have often suggested. Compile a list, not only of your faults, your qualities and virtues, in other words of what you are, but also of what you want. What are your desires really? And when you have done that, begin a constant process of self-analysis of your feelings every day. You will automatically get to know after a while in what respect you have obviously deviated from divine law in your emotional currents. Sometimes, when you discover the nature of a hidden desire, you will know at once that it is contrary to God's will, even without any metaphysical knowledge. In other cases, you may have to probe a little deeper and separate the clean motive from the impure in the same desire current. As you view what is at stake in an issue, you will seldom find an answer by asking whether the action you contemplate is right or wrong. Since none of you would ever consider committing an antisocial or sinful act, the decisions you are faced with could be right either way in principle. Yet, for each individual there is always only one right way and many, many wrong ways possible. So you have to consider your honest motives behind your apparent good motives; that will determine the right or wrong action for you, not the ethical value of the action itself. As long as you have not found all the motives behind a desire, you will not be able to know the right action for you. The right procedure is not to ask God simply to let you know whether to do such and such, thus avoiding the work of self-knowledge on your part. There may be isolated instances where this can be the right thing to do, but not generally, not when there seems to be a repetitive pattern and a conflict involved. The right procedure is to decide wholeheartedly that you wish to find all the motives behind the conscious motive, and for that you should pray for God's help. Then He will help you. ... |