

## Preparing to Fight Fire and Stay Alive--Right to Fight, Left for Life

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“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise, but as wise.” Ephesians 5:15

### A. Three types of training:

1. Teaching – Jesus taught the people.
2. Mentoring – Jesus mentored his disciples.
3. Example – Jesus lived as an example for all of us.

ACT WITH PURPOSE - it will not occur by accident

### B. Two types of decision making

1. **THOUGHTFUL** – you get time to consider - Operating from a set of principles

A set of priorities must be **broad enough to cover everything** and **specific enough to give direct guidance**. They must be memorable.

Paul's Four Part Ethical System:

Keep your hands to yourself

You are bound by your word

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Love your neighbor as yourself.

What are the principles that your family uses to make decisions?

How are they rooted in scripture?

How are they applied in a variety of situations?

Is it scriptural?

Is it moral?

Is it legal?

Do you have to hide your actions?

How do you use your money? – giving, saving, spending, borrowing, contentment

How do you use your time? – entertainment, worship, service, work

To those whom much is given... much is expected. - Luke 12:48

### Deuteronomy 11:18-20

“Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...on your doorposts...as you sit in your house...as you walk in the way...”

2. **INSTANT** – you don't get time to contemplate

This is the real test of who we are. The way we respond can tell us a lot about ourselves.

*C.S Lewis: "The way to know if there are rats in the cellar is to throw the door open rapidly."*

Our reaction to immediate situations reveals a lot about the kind of people we are.

**By practicing being Godly people**, we develop the ability to make sound, rapid decisions.

Does it feel right – this is reliable **ONLY** if we have been living right--filling our lives with God's words and principles.

Some decisions are best made rapidly and decisively.

**Primed decision making** – Hey, I have seen this before.

What stories do your children hear you tell that will guide them in the future.

Help your children to think about situations that could occur.

**C. Homework - Go home and discuss with your spouse!**

What are the principles we use to make decisions?

How do we pass these principles on to our children?