

Decisions involving choices of a vocation, of educational institutions, of marriage and a wife, of a life-style, and of career moves and changes are surely basic decisions. Crucial mistakes at any of these crossroads can mean success or failure.

Some crucial mistakes can be corrected. Others, either for principal or practical reasons, can't.

I believe the key here is carefulness rather than impulsiveness. Don't jump at any of these critical junctions, unless the matter is urgent and you are convinced it is the right thing to do.

Seek the face of God. Seek the wise counsel of godly persons, and weigh all of the factors carefully before making any moves. What sounds good at first hearing may not sound so good upon reflection. Take time to decide!

My fourth suggestion is this:

4. If you wish to have success, evaluate your potential appropriately, and find your God-intended niche in life.

Some of you have heard of or know Thomas Taylor. He was my colleague for 37 years. All those years I admired him -- his quick wit, his humor, his rapier-sharp repartee!

At one time I actually wanted to be like him! (although I'm not sure the world would survive if it contained two of him!) But after a while I saw that it was hopeless, and I went back to being myself (which I will admit is something of a letdown if I am compared with Tom Taylor!)

The lesson I had to learn is: Don't try to be someone else; be yourself! But while you are doing that, be the best that you can be by the grace of God!

Evaluate your gifts, your abilities, your interests and inclinations, your responsibilities, your priorities; and after you have weighed these,