

# WEEKLY COMPASS



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## On Second Thought

When faced with big decisions (e.g., major purchases like a car or home, accepting a job offer, or the decision to marry) it is suggested to sleep on it rather than rush into something that may have long-term consequences. Now, a little shut eye doesn't provide greater clarity, but rather gives the extra time needed to render a decision regarding the next big step to take or not to take. It should be paired with some very intentional praying and seeking clarity from God. It doesn't have to be or shouldn't just be major matters when the Lord is sought. The thoughts and actions that happen daily and moment by moment is the time to seek the Lord with the purpose of fulfilling what He desires.

Also, when dealing with others, take some time and pray. Our first thought when something is said that is perceived to be negative or nasty is to set that person straight or use words to get them back, all in an effort to not appear weak. When this thought comes to mind to retaliate, take a few minutes to breathe and ask God to guide what is about to be said. It will allow for the opportunity to reflect on a second thought. The second thought is to allow the power of

the Holy Spirit to take control so the reaction will be different. It is the second thought that can prevent the destroying or delaying of the things that God is working to cultivate or has in store. Be careful because the words that are spoken in reply cannot be erased. When something is said that is hurtful, consult with God before replying.

When making a decision independent of God or without seeking wisdom from on high, be intentional about taking 60 seconds (or longer if needed) to consider what God would want done in the situation. Trust that there will be clarity when there is an earnest prayer for it. The Word of God says that the power of life and death lies in the tongue (Proverbs 18:21). With this knowledge be mindful of speaking words that seek to edify and not tear when making decision and speaking to others.

### Talking Point(s)

- Why is it important to have a strong prayer life in advance of making major decisions or seeking directions from the Lord?
- How can acting on a impulse (apart from God) impact lives, and for generations to come?

**Prayer:** *Dear Father, thank You for being a very present God who sees every need and knows the plans You have for everyone. Continue to give your children the sense to know what You want them to do, trust that You know better, and to simply obey You and Your Word. Amen!*

### Sunday School Lesson and Scripture

**Taking Risks And  
Reaping Rewards  
Matthew 2:1-12**

### Devotional Reading

**Christ The Savior is  
Born  
Matthew 1:18-25**

**Unifying Topic  
The Faith of the Wise  
Men**

### Main Thought

**Saying, Where is he that is born  
King of the Jews? for we have  
seen his star in the east, and  
are come to worship him.**

**Matthew 2:2 (KJV)**