SOFTWARE & TECH

Kevin Deyoung Just Do Something

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Introduction: The Paralysis of Endless Possibilities

In a world saturated with choices, the simple act of deciding can feel overwhelming. From career paths and life partners to where to live and what church to attend, modern life offers an endless menu of options. For many, especially within the Christian community, this decision fatigue is compounded by a deep spiritual anxiety: the fear of missing God's perfect will. This fear can lead to a state of paralysis, where individuals pray endlessly, seek signs, and wait for a supernatural green light that never seems to come. It is in this context that Kevin DeYoung's bestselling book, **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**, emerges as a bracing, liberating, and much-needed corrective. The book is not just a call to action; it is a theological manifesto against passivity, offering a framework for decision-making that is grounded in scripture, wisdom, and a healthy dose of common sense. This article delves into the core messages of this influential book, exploring why it has resonated with so many and how its principles can transform the way we approach life's crossroads.

The Core Problem: The "Holy Spinning" of Indecision

DeYoung begins by diagnosing the ailment he sees plaguing modern Evangelicalism: a chronic, debilitating indecision he often calls "holy spinning." This is the state where a person is so desperate to find God's specific, preordained plan for their life that they become paralyzed, unable to move forward in any meaningful direction. The underlying assumption, which DeYoung systematically dismantles, is that God has a single, hidden "soulmate" for marriage, a specific "dream job" for a career, and a particular zip code where his will can be perfectly fulfilled.

The Myth of the "Dot" and the "Line"

A key concept in **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**is the distinction between God's sovereign will (the "line") and his will of command (the "dot"). God's sovereign will is his secret, decratal plan that governs all of history and will never be thwarted. We do not need to find this; it will happen regardless of our decisions. God's will of command is his revealed moral will found in Scripture. This is the "dot" – the clear path of obedience, love, and holiness. DeYoung argues that our obsession with finding the sovereign will (the "line") for minor life decisions often distracts us from obeying the revealed will (the "dot") for our lives today. The book urges readers to stop looking for a magical roadmap and instead focus on being the kind of person God commands them to be.

Deconstructing the "Perfect Will" Theology

One of the most liberating aspects of **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**is its thorough critique of the idea that God has a detailed, specific plan for every individual decision. DeYoung argues that this teaching, while well-intentioned, creates unnecessary anxiety and is not biblically supported. He points to examples in scripture—like Paul's missionary journeys—where decisions were made through providential circumstances, prayer, and simple wisdom, rather than direct divine revelation for every step.

Biblical Examples of Decision-Making

DeYoung walks readers through key biblical passages. He highlights how in the book of Acts, the apostles made decisions based on logic (sending Paul and Barnabas to check on churches), need (appointing deacons to serve

tables), and even disagreement (Paul and Barnabas parting ways). He notes that nowhere in the New Testament are Christians commanded to find a singular, hidden will for their lives. Instead, they are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, to love God and neighbor, and to use wisdom. This section is a powerful argument against the "fleece method" of decision-making (like Gideon's fleece) which was a sign of a lack of faith, not a model for normal Christian life.

The Powerful Antidote: Wisdom, Action, and Faith

If we are not to wait for a special sign, how then should we decide? The answer, as DeYoung presents it, is refreshingly simple and practical. The antidote to indecision is to grow in wisdom, take bold action, and trust God with the results. This forms the practical core of the book.

Clarity Begins with Character

DeYoung insists that the primary question is not "What should I do?" but "Who should I be?" He argues that God is far more concerned with our holiness and character than with our particular job or living situation. If we focus on cultivating biblical virtues—patience, kindness, self-control, generosity, and a love for God—we will naturally make better decisions. The more we align our hearts with God's commands, the less we need to worry about finding his specific "plan." This principle is a cornerstone of the **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**philosophy. It shifts the focus from a frantic search for direction to a steady pursuit of godliness.

The Role of Wisdom and Common Sense

The book elevates the biblical gift of wisdom as the primary tool for decision-making. Instead of waiting for a supernatural sign, DeYoung encourages readers to use the brains God gave them. This involves:

- Gathering Information: Researching options, talking to people, and understanding the realities of a situation.
- Seeking Counsel: Proverbs is clear that there is safety in a multitude of counselors. DeYoung emphasizes the importance of talking to godly, wise people who know you.
- Considering Your Gifts and Desires: God often places desires in our hearts and gives us talents that are good indicators of direction. To ignore these is to ignore God's common grace.
- Evaluating Circumstances: Open doors, financial realities, and family needs are not the final word, but they are crucial considerations. DeYoung calls this "sanctified common sense."

Overcoming the Fear of Failure and Regret

Underneath much of the indecision is a deep-seated fear: the fear of making the wrong choice, of stepping outside of God's will, and of a future filled with regret. **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**directly addresses this fear by pointing to the sovereignty of God. DeYoung argues that if God is truly sovereign, he is big enough to work through our poor choices.

God's Sovereignty is Our Safety Net

The book brilliantly explains that our decisions do not have the power to derail God's ultimate plan for our lives. If you marry the "wrong" person (as long as they are a Christian, of course), God can still use that marriage for your sanctification and his glory. If you take a job that doesn't work out, God can use that failure to teach you humility and redirect your path. The idea that one wrong turn can lead to a life outside of God's will is a lie that fuels anxiety. DeYoung reminds us that God's sovereign will is a path that we are already on, and our choices are within that path, not capable of breaking it. This liberating truth allows believers to make decisions with freedom and confidence, knowing that God's grace covers our mistakes.

Practical Application: A Guide to "Just Doing Something"

The final section of the book is a practical guide to applying the principles. DeYoung offers concrete steps for breaking free from the cycle of indecision. The title itself, **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**, is the ultimate takeaway. The idea is not to act recklessly, but to act decisively after a reasonable period of prayer, counsel, and wisdom-gathering.

Steps to Break the Cycle of Indecision

DeYoung provides a clear, actionable framework, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Pray and Confess: Acknowledge your indecision as a lack of trust in God's sovereignty and goodness.
2. Consult Scripture and Wise Counsel: What does the Bible say about this? What do godly people in your life think?
3. Use Your Head: Logically weigh the pros and cons. What is the wisest course of action?
4. Make a Choice: Set a deadline and make the best decision you can with the information you have.
5. Don't Look Back: Once you have acted, trust God with the outcome and avoid the paralyzing "what ifs."

This simple but disruptive process has helped countless readers move from a state of anxious waiting to one of obedient action. It encourages a posture of faith that says, "I trust God so much that I am willing to be wrong, because he will use even my mistakes for good."

Critique and Common Misunderstandings

No book is without its critics, and **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**has faced some. Some worry that it downplays the importance of seeking God's specific guidance through prayer. Others fear it could lead to rash, foolish decisions made without due consideration. However, a careful reading shows that DeYoung is not against prayer or seeking God's face. He is against the kind of super-spiritual passivity that uses prayer as an excuse for inaction. He advocates for a prayer that is about aligning our will with God's revealed moral will, not for a prayer that seeks a magic eight-ball answer. The book is a call to maturity, encouraging believers to move from spiritual childhood, where they need a special sign for every step, to spiritual adulthood, where they can make wise, godly decisions based on a well-formed character.

Why This Message is More Relevant Than Ever

In our current cultural moment, characterized by an overwhelming number of choices and a pervasive fear of missing out, the message of **Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something**is more needed than ever. We are a generation that can "like," "swipe," and "subscribe" our way through life without ever truly committing to anything. The book is a prophetic challenge to a passive and cautious generation. It calls us to a life of decisive faith, where we are less concerned with finding the perfect path and more concerned with walking faithfully on the path we are on. It is an invitation to trade our "holy spinning" for holy action, to step out in faith, and to trust that the God who holds the future also holds us secure in the present. The book's enduring popularity is a testament to its power to diagnose a very real spiritual sickness and offer a simple, profound, and biblical cure.

Conclusion: The Freedom of a Decisive Faith

Ultimately, *Kevin DeYoung Just Do Something*is not a license for thoughtless impulsivity, but a charter for courageous faithfulness. It dismantles the toxic theology of a hidden "perfect will" and replaces it with the liberating call to know God, obey his commands, and use wisdom. By reframing the question from "What is God's will for my

life?" to "How can I be a godly person today?" the book frees believers from the prison of indecision. It reminds us that God is more interested in our journey of sanctification than in the specific zip code we live in. The path to a fulfilling life is not found by waiting for a sign from heaven, but by taking the next faithful step, trusting in the sovereign grace of a God who is both the author and the perfecter of our faith. The message is clear and powerful: stop spinning your wheels, put your trust in God, and just do something. The freedom found on the other side of that decision is worth more than all the certainty you leave behind.

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