

# Philosophies about Decision Making & Problem Solving

Selected Quotes from *Decision Making and Problem Solving in Management* © 2008 by Robert H. Vaughn

*"Cheshire Puss, would you tell me, please, which way I ought to walk from here?"*

*"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.*

*"I don't much care where ---" said Alice.*

*"Then it doesn't matter which way you walk," said the Cat.*

*"--- so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.*

*"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if only you walk long enough."*

- Lewis Carroll

*If your only tool is a hammer, you tend to see all problems as nails. Having a versatile, well stocked toolbox is essential for a good manager.*

- Bob Vaughn, *Decision Making & Problem Solving in Management* © 2008

*"More than any time in history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness, the other to total extinction. Let us pray that we have the wisdom to choose correctly."*

- Woody Allen

*Always look for the second right answer -- or maybe the third.*

- Bob Vaughn, *Decision Making & Problem Solving in Management* © 2008

*"Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do."*

-- Benjamin Spock, M.D

*"The pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple."*

- Oscar Wilde

*"If you have always done it that way, it is probably wrong."*

- Charles Kettering

*"Too often, our minds are locked on one track. We are looking for red – so we overlook blue. Many Nobel Prizes have been washed down the drain because someone did not expect the unexpected."*

- John D. Turner

*"Life is full of choices.... and sometimes all of them are yucky!"*

- Joanne Lee

*"Did you ever have to make up your mind? Say 'yes' to one and leave the other behind? It's not often easy; it's not often kind. Did you ever have to make up your mind?"*

- The Lovin' Spoonful

*"It is much more pleasant to make the decision than to justify it."*

- Malcolm Forbes

*Acquisition of facts does not constitute knowledge.*

-Anonymous (From Vaughn, *Decision Making & Problem Solving in Management* © 2008)

*"Often a choice is made early in the process, with the subsequent activity devoted to confirming the early choice."*

- McCall & Kaplan (From *Whatever It Takes ...* © 1990)

*"Skilled decision makers aren't overloaded with data; they can focus on high payoff information."*

- Klein & Weick (From "Decisions" in *Across the Board* © 2000)