

## Is there Such a Thing as a Good Gamble?

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### Determining a Good or Bad Gamble

Gambling is not necessarily wrong, but there are pitfalls which are biblically wrong that we must avoid when taking different kinds of gambles. Here are three examples of possible good gambles and three examples of bad gambles.

### Examples of Possible Good Gambles

1. **Business can be a good gamble if it does not lead to greed.**

*And He said to them, Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions (Luke 12:15).*

2. **Investing can be a good gamble if our focus is not to get rich.**

*But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang (1 Timothy 6:9-10).*

3. **Insurance may be a good gamble since it makes provision for future needs.**

*A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous (Proverbs 13:22).*

### Examples of Bad Gambles

1. **Casino playing is bad gambling because you don't have a reasonable chance of winning.**

2. **Lottery playing is a very bad form of gambling because it is a vain pursuit.**

*He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who pursues vain things lacks sense (Proverbs 28:19).* The lottery creates an artificial world to live in which diverts our attention from our responsibility to a hope that we can get lucky.

3. **Blind faith decisions are the worst form of gambling because they are evidenced by disobedience caused from faulty reasoning.**

Consider, for example, Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), Satan (Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14), Saul (1 Samuel 15), Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 16:29-34), and Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5).

### How Can We Determine if a Gamble Is Good or Bad?

A bad gamble is a blind faith decision with a less reasonable basis. **A good gamble is a reasonable decision based on the knowledge of God as revealed in the Bible.** Becoming a Christian is a gamble, faith is a gamble, and applying the Bible is a gamble. All heroes of the Bible were gamblers (Noah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Ruth, Samuel, Mary, and Paul).