

Advice

Proverbs 8: 14-16 HCSB I possess good advice and competence; I have understanding and strength. **15** It is by me that kings reign and rulers enact just law; **16** by me, princes lead, as do nobles and all righteous judges.

Our post-modern culture, with its “laissez faire” attitude breeds independence. If every truth being relative and everyone’s opinion equally valid, we may ask “Why do I need advice from others? I know what I’m doing.” But the Bible stands in opposition to this view Solomon says,

- **Proverbs 12:15 HCSB** A fool's way is right in his own eyes, but whoever listens to counsel is wise.

Wisdom involves recognizing our own inadequacies. Foolishness is thinking we have none. So how valuable is wise advice?

- **Proverbs 7:1-3 HCSB** My son, obey my words, and treasure my commands. **2** Keep my commands and live; protect my teachings as you would the pupil of your eye. **3** Tie them to your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.
- **Proverbs 25:11 HCSB** A word spoken at the right time is like golden apples on a silver tray. Timely advice is not merely helpful; it is essential. It is not merely essential; it is also beautiful.

Where do we look for good advice? Consider the example of Noah.

- **Genesis 6:9 HCSB** These are the family records of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among his contemporaries; Noah walked with God.

Would you like to have that as your epitaph? Would you like to have that said about you for the next five or six thousand years? “This person was righteous; blameless among his contemporaries; he walked with God.” Then walk with God. Spend time with Him. Listen to Him. Talk to Him. Read His Holy Scriptures and obey Him.

Find others who are attempting the same thing.

- **Titus 1:15 HCSB** To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled.

Seek advice from those who are faithful, godly, honest, and trustworthy. They can be counted on to give you counsel that comes from God’s word.

How do we identify these fellow seekers? How do we evaluate the advice of others? How do we know that their advice will likely be sound?

- **Matthew 7:16 HCSB** You'll recognize them by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?
- **2 John 1:9 HCSB** Anyone who does not remain in the teaching about Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God. The one who remains in that teaching, this one has both the Father and the Son.

One way to evaluate advice is to evaluate the adviser. Do the adviser’s words and life produce good fruit or bad? When evaluating advice, check it against the truth of God’s word. If it contradicts the Bible, then it is bad advice.

When you are looking for advice, don’t go to the worldly. Don’t go to those who are unsuccessful in life. Don’t go to those who will just tell you what you want to hear. Find the godly. Find men and women of character. Find people who are strong and have a servant’s heart. They will guide you well. If you listen to fools, your destruction is assured.

- **Proverbs 10:21 HCSB** The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense. What happens when we follow good advice?
- **Psalms 1:1 HCSB** How happy is the man who does not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path of sinners, or join a group of mockers!

When we walk with God, obey His word, and fellowship with fellow believers, we will truly be joyful. Life's circumstances may yet be difficult but because we know that in the end our God will work things out to our benefit, we will be at peace with ourselves – happy. Following good advice leads to success. Your business may fail but the experience will still be successful because you will have gained insight and strength. You'll do better next time. Following scriptural advice ensures that you will succeed regardless. "All things work together for good..."

On the other hand, you cannot expect to ignore God's Word, to set aside His advice and then have Him come running to your rescue when you suffer the consequences of your decisions. We often test God. We know we should do as He says but we do not. Then, when trouble arrives, we look to God to bail us out. We don't understand why He lets us suffer. But God sometimes lets us struggle through the natural consequences of our disobedience in order to teach us that He means what He says. God is not someone that we should turn to only in times of trial. Like any good relationship, we must invest in the good times and then expect returns in the bad times.

- Proverbs 1:25-28 HCSB since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction, 26 I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when terror strikes you, 27 when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and stress overcome you. 28 Then they will call me, but I won't answer; they will search for me, but won't find me.

Live this godly lifestyle long enough and all of a sudden you'll find people beginning to come to YOU for godly advice. You may wonder, "How do I give good advice to others?"

- [Philippians 4:8 HCSB](#) Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable--if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise--dwell on these things.

When giving advice to others, have pure motives, point to God's word, and don't use advice as an excuse to lecture. Pray about what you want to say, and have the other's best interests in mind. Words are like medicine; they should be measured with care. An overdose may do more harm than good.

Conclusion:

If you truly want to be the best that you can be, you need to envision yourself as a wise king. Surround yourself with good advisors. Search for the godliest, wisest people you can find and consciously make them your counsel. Ask them if they would be willing to be a part of your life. Let them know what you are doing. Pay them if you have to – but get the best.

- Proverbs 11:14 HCSB Without guidance, people fall, but with many counselors there is deliverance.