

WISE PEOPLE LISTEN TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Proverbs 13:1, 10, 13, 14, 18, 20

- *"Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise."* (Proverbs 13:10)
- **There are times in our life when we all need some advice.**
- **The Lord wants us to come to Him with our requests for advice and counsel, and we can hear from Him from His Word, His Spirit His People.**
- *"The instruction of the wise is like a life-giving fountain; those who accept it avoid the snares of death."* (Proverbs 13:14)
- **Throughout our lives God places people in our life to help and instruct us.**
- *"People who despise advice are asking for trouble; those who respect a command will succeed."* (Proverbs 13:13)
- ***Since we want to be successful in life, what steps should we take to receive Godly wisdom and counsel?***

Receiving Godly Counsel Requires:

DESIRING GODLY <u>WISDOM</u>

- **Godly wisdom is available to everyone**
    - *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." (*James 1:5)
- **Wise counsel can accelerate direction or change in our lives.**
    - **Instruction received can be a key to unlocking doors that are seemingly closed.**
    - **Confirmation can be received that will give confidence to move forward and not waste time in indecision.**
    - **Warnings of pitfalls can help us change course.**
- *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

    - **God gives us counsel and wisdom through His Word, which is why we need to read it, study it, meditate on it and listen to godly teachers teach it.**
- **The Lord also gives us counsel and wisdom through godly individuals.**
    - *"The instruction of the wise is like a life-giving fountain; those who accept it avoid the snares of death."* (Proverbs 13:14)
    - Paul - *"Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example." (*Philippians 3:17)

Receiving Godly Counsel Requires:
LISTENING TO THE RIGHT <u>VOICES</u>

- *"A wise child accepts a parent's discipline; a mocker refuses to listen to correction."* (Proverbs 13:1)
- **Learning from godly parents and mentors help us to develop maturity.**
    - *"He (Jesus) went down with them (Mary and Joseph) and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart*." (Luke 2:51)
- **Spiritual leaders are a part of God's design to help us stay on track.**
    - *"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account.."* (Hebrews 13:17)
- **When God wants to communicate to us His plans and purposes, He brings the right people into our lives.**
- *"If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept correction, you will be honored."* (Proverbs 13:18)
- **We need the counsel of others, because someone else may see or know something we don't see that will greatly benefit our lives.**
- **Listening to the right voices will lead us to make the right choices.**

Receiving Godly Counsel Requires:
RESISTING THE <u>WRONG</u> VOICES

- *"Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble."* (Proverbs 13:20)
- **Fools are people who become prideful about their own knowledge.**
    - *"Fools despise wisdom and discipline."* (Proverbs 1:7)
    - *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claim to be wise, they became fools."* (Romans 1:21-22)
- **Fools operate in rebellion towards God, pursuing disorder and lawlessness.**

    - *"What sorrow for those who say that evil is good and good is evil, that dark is light and light is dark, that bitter is sweet and sweet is bitter."* (Isaiah 5:20)
- **People in our life influence what we think about, what we do and what we become.**
    - "We are the average of the five people we spend the most time with." - Jim Rohn
- **Wrong voices and relationships can be used by the enemy to hinder us.**
    - *"Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'"* (Matthew 16:23)
    - **Satan attempts to hinder us by: 1) Sending the wrong people into our life, 2) Sending opposing voices to negatively affect our walk, witness or work and 3) Confusing our identity**
- **Listening to the wrong voices will lead us to make wrong choices**

Receiving Godly Counsel Requires:

LISTENING TO GOD'S <u>SPIRIT</u>

- *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."* (John 16:13)
- **Rejecting godly truth grieves the Holy Spirit and disconnects us from God.**
    - *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*." (Ephesians 4:30)
    - **God will allow us to go our own way and to handle our challenges alone.**
    - *"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, He abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done."* (Romans 1:28)
- **Confessing sin in our life will clear our heart and mind to hear instruction from the Holy Spirit**
    - *"When He (God's Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment."* (John 16:8)
    - **Confession helps clear strongholds that can occur.**
    - *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,"* (2 Corinthians 10:4)
- *"The LORD is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for His help."* (Isaiah 30:18)
- **Waiting on the Lord is wise because God is never early, never late, always on time.**

    - *“The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.’* (Psalms 84:11c)
    - **Trust coupled with obedience will bring new direction, spiritual depth and fulfillment to our life**.

- Jesus - *“My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me.”* (John 10:27)
- **Jesus calls us to follow Him, and walking in His will brings us into His presence, power, purpose and protection.**