

## Advice

Joe Slater

Advice – who needs it? Oftentimes I do! (Anyone else want to admit it?) *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise”* (Proverbs 12:15). Effective leaders listen to trustworthy advisors before making important decisions.

No doubt the best advice in the world comes from the word of God. *“Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law”* (Psalm 94:12). Too often, though, sinful humans just don’t like His counsel. In fact, we tend to want to reverse the roles! Maybe we wouldn’t literally tell God what He should do, or what course of action He should approve for us, but that’s the net effect when we reject His counsel and forge ahead doing it “my way.”

Paul rhetorically asked the Romans, *“For who has known the mind or the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”* (Romans 11:34, quoting Isaiah 40:13). In the next verse Paul asked the very question God asked Job: *“Or who has first given to Him, and it shall be repaid to him?”* (Romans 11:35 quoting Job 41:11). The obvious answer to both questions: “Nobody!” The omniscient and infinitely wise God has no need whatever for our advice!

We, on the other hand, would do well to seek His advice within that great volume of His revealed will called the Bible. And once we have found it, we would do even better to heed it!

In many cases free advice is particularly unwelcome. But God’s advice won’t cost you a penny. You will, however, be tremendously enriched by following it.

## What Is Truth?

Truth is at a premium. From the White House to the State House to the average American house, people seem to have no problem with lying. According to a recent poll, the majority interviewed said they have lied and would do so again in order to protect themselves or to keep from hurting someone’s feelings. (Personally, to find out somebody lied to me would hurt more.)

We speak of white lies and black lies and different shades of gray lies, but they are all lies. A lie is a lie. The Bible takes lying seriously. (Take a look at Revelation 21:8.)

High government officials have consulted with their lawyers to decide how they would testify in court cases. Why? Spin may be the “in” thing in political circles, but spin is sin when it is untrue.

Do you sometimes feel like asking Pilate’s question to Jesus: *“What is truth?”* (John 18:38). Are you looking for truth? Are you having a hard time finding it amidst the half-truths, outright lies, and spin? Take heart! Look to Jesus who said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). Stand and say with Him, *“Your word is truth”* (John 17:17).

--Sellers Crain, Jr. (via Power For Today)

**When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, you don’t throw it away. You change the batteries.**

**When people mess up and find themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries!**

**Some need AA batteries: attention and affection. Some need AAA batteries: attention, affection, and acceptance. Others need a C battery: compassion. Still others need a D battery: direction.**

**And if they still don’t seem to shine, simply sit with them quietly and share your light.**

## Crumbs Of Time

A friend was coming to town. He is a very busy man and his schedule was tight, but after a difficult day in important meetings, he managed to see my family for half an hour for a quick and late dinner. We enjoyed his visit, but I remember looking at my plate and thinking, “We only got the crumbs of his time.”

Then I remembered how many times God gets the crumbs of my time – sometimes just the last minutes before I fall asleep.

Daniel was a busy man. He held a high government position in the ancient kingdom of Babylon, and I’m sure he had a full schedule. However, he had developed the habit of spending time with God – praying three times a day; praising God and thanking Him (Daniel 6:10). This routine helped him develop a strong faith that did not waver, when he faced persecution.

God desires a relationship with us. In the morning we can invited Him into our day, and then we can praise Him ask for His help throughout the day. At other times, we can treasure some time with alone with Him and reflect on His faithfulness. As we spend time with God in prayer and in His Word, we grow in our relationship with Him and learn to become more and more like Him. As time with God becomes a priority, we enjoy His company more and more.

--Keila Ochoa

## The Goal Of The Gospel

The goal of the gospel is not to affirm you, celebrate you, and accept you. The goal of the gospel is to rescue you, transform you, and redirect you.

--Shane Pruitt (via Facebook)