

Good Advice

Joe Slater

Everyone needs advice from time to time. *“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in a multitude of counselors there is safety”* (Proverbs 11:14). *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise”* (12:15). *“By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom”* (13:10).

To whom do you go for advice? Psalm 1:1 opens with these words: *“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly.”* As is so often the case, “walk” refers to one’s manner of life. And legion are those who have patterned their behavior according to the advice of the ungodly. Invariably they have lived to regret it.

King Saul, for example, sought advice from a medium at En-Dor (1 Samuel 28:7ff). How did that work out for him? *“So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the Lord, because he did not keep the word of the Lord, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance”* (1 Chronicles 10:13).

With the best of intentions many seek advice from those with high degrees of worldly wisdom. Such sources may occasionally offer helpful counsel, but all too often their recommendations fly in the face of divine wisdom.

Christians wisely seek advice from God Himself via His word. But the word of God must be handled aright (2 Timothy 2:15). Satan is an expert at twisting Scripture, and his servants follow His lead. It takes a careful study of the Bible to avoid falling into the devil’s snare.

The best counsel comes from God, His word, and His faithful servants. Take advantage of it!

Cultivating Friendship

Friendship is one of our deepest needs. Yet so many have no idea about how to fulfill that longing. Fortunately, the Bible has much to say about the matter. Solomon wrote, *“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”* (Prov. 17:17). Later, he adds, *“There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother”* (18:24). Such friendship is a beautiful and treasured possession.

A friend is one who loves at all times, even when our weaknesses become evident. An old proverb says, “He who seeks a friend without a fault remains without one.” A friend does not easily give up but seeks to encourage and strengthen. *“A friend loves at all times.”* In fact, *“A brother is born for adversity”* (17:17). If you cannot lean on a friend, who can you lean on?

How does a friend get to be someone who sticks closer than a brother? The answer lies in the realm of adversity. A friend does not give up on us, even when we have given up on ourselves. A friend remains loyal when loyalty is not popular. A friend believes and expects the best of his friend and their friendship.

How do we go about developing friendships? There are no short-cuts. Relationships require time and energy. In our madly-paced world, many are starving for friendship. Many of our “so-called” friendships are shallow and unfulfilling. The one who would have friends must show himself to be friendly (Prov. 18:24, KJV). No one would argue that a person can seriously seek friendship without seeking to be a friend. In a practical sense, this means that we must develop those qualities which will make us a good friend to others. Loyalty, dependability, a sense of caring and an ability to overlook another’s weaknesses are a few of the essentials of friendship. It takes time to develop close friendships; but while we are waiting, we must seek to develop the qualities which will make a good friend.

--Glen Elliott (Greenbriar, AR)

Seeing the Unseen

“For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

The human brain is a masterpiece of divine engineering, capable of astonishing feats of creativity and problem-solving. Yet, its tendencies to simplify, seek immediate rewards, and conserve energy often may lead astray. These shortcuts, while designed to help us navigate life efficiently, can also foster judgment, overconfidence, and a fixation on what is visible and immediate. Have we ever found ourselves convinced of our own correctness, only to realize later how limited our understanding was? This is a shared human experience—our brains are wired for efficiency, not omniscience.

The good news is that God designed us with the capacity to transcend these limitations. By training our minds to focus on the unseen—on eternal truths rather than transient pleasures—we align our thoughts with His higher purpose. Peace, joy, and harmony are not found in external circumstances but within, where Christ dwells continually. Romans 8:6 reminds us, *“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”* This inner life is cultivated through conscious effort, prayer, and reflection, allowing God to transform our thought patterns.

Physical exercise strengthens our bodies, spiritual practices reshape our brains. Neuroscience confirms that repeated thoughts and behaviors create new neural pathways, reinforcing habits over time. Imagine what could happen if we intentionally meditated on God’s Word daily, letting His truths replace doubts and fears. Gradually, the lens through which we view the world changes. We stop chasing external validation and start experiencing the peace Christ promised.

--Robert Kargbo (Middleton, WI)