

When approaching decision-points, what should we do? Seek good counsel

Everyone encounters a decision point in their lives. The decision may be about school, handling a personal financial matter, or the relationship with a loved one, or maybe regarding a job – to move or not to move. The principle of seeking wise counsel is shown throughout the Bible. As a Christian Chaplain, may I encourage you to seek Godly counsel whenever you make life-changing decisions? It is wise to think through who we can talk to when we need advice or direction:

For example, the ‘who’ we seek counsel from can be a chaplain, a professional counselor, or mentor, who each stand on solid foundations to render good counsel.

Looking to the biblical scripture, may I suggest a few for you to consider:

- 1) *Prov. 15:22, “Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.”*
- 2) *Prov. 1:5, “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:” Prov. 12:15, “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”*
- 3) *Prov. 19:20-21, “Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.*

Or, possibly,

- 4) *There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.”*

Wise counsel will help us seek God’s best for our lives by looking at all sides of issues. Wise counselors turn their own will and agenda over to God as they seek guidance. It is better to receive counsel from those who can help review pros/cons and strengths/weaknesses of our decisions rather than listening to those who simply tell us what we want to hear or criticize us.

Choosing poor counselors can have disastrous consequences, so it is important to be intentional about whom we seek out (see the story of Rehoboam in *2 Chr. 10*). Below are some characteristics of someone to seek out for guidance and wise counsel:

- Genuinely concerned for you and either knows or is willing to learn about your background.
- Known to be biblically sound, spiritually mature, and aware of their own blind spots.
- Skilled at listening and asking good questions.
- Somewhat experienced, knowledgeable, or trained in the area you are seeking guidance about (i.e. using an experienced professional when making career decisions).
- Exercises confidentiality and uses discretion.
- Exemplifies humility and gentleness yet loves you enough to tell you the truth or where you may be interpreting situations in error (even if it hurts).
- Provides an honest opinion and is direct when necessary.
- Able to be objective in the situation.

Establish good reference points from where and who you can seek good counsel. You may even want to seek good counsel from individuals or institutions that have helped you previously.

In light of the scriptures previously and the critical decision-points forthcoming in your life. May I say in closing, seek good counsel.

Thank you for your time,

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