



Marriage Growth-Track

Week 10 - Day 5

Help and Guidance

by Wes and Kim Holloway

The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

Proverbs 12:15

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 11:14

Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.

Proverbs 13:10

Imagine how much simpler and peaceful and uncomplicated life would be if we could all just live by the words from the Book of Proverbs. All of life would be smooth sailing with everyone getting along with each other. There'd be no dissent or disagreements or egos. Peace would prevail. That is, until one of us started thinking our way was better. And someone disagreed. And someone else wanted to do things their way. And, before you know it, everyone was following their own path—the one they think is right—without so much as a bit of advice or wisdom or insight from anyone else.

Oh wait...that's pretty much how it is right now, isn't it?

This is what we see in these verses:

- God's word warns us about the downfall of doing life by ourselves; sometimes our ways are 'the way of a fool';
- God tells us it is dangerous to pursue life without guidance; He even promises that 'people will fail';
- God warns against being insolent or rude and disrespectful;
- One of the ways God has given us help is through others in the form of godly council. He encourages us to seek out the wisdom of others who have experience and insight into the troubles we are facing;

Have you ever been in a crisis, trial, or stressful situation where you had absolutely no clue where to turn to for help or direction? Maybe it was about your kids. Or a job loss.

Or in your marriage. We've all been there at one time or another. It's a helpless, sometime gut-wrenching situation.

But it doesn't have to be.

For believers, we're encouraged first and foremost to turn to God. Pray, search the Scriptures, and ask for The Lord's intervention. Beyond that, however, we're also pointed to another source of comfort: the wise counsel of others. Pastors, parents, friends are all worthy options. So are people further along on their career journey or parenting path or faith walk. Most people are more than willing to offer the lessons they've learned from their life's travels. Ask to meet them for coffee or take them to lunch and hear them out. Maybe not all of what they have to say is relevant to your situation, but chances are you'll come away with at least a nugget of insight. Do this with several people in similar situations and see if you don't come away with a common train of thought amongst them. Maybe you will; maybe you'll have a complete spectrum of insights. Either way, you will have gained the perspective and experiences of those who have gone before you and that can help with what to and what not to do.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have a strong support system - friends, family members, or mentors to whom you can look to for help in a difficult situation?

Action Steps:

Make a list of names of the people you'd feel most comfortable turning to for assistance in times of a trial.

Prayer:

God, thank you for building our lives in the midst of other believers. Thank you for friends that come alongside us throughout life and who are available to share their wisdom with us. Help us to turn to you and to seek the wise council of those you place in our lives. And as we mature, help us to be receptive to serving as wise council for those who come after us. Above all, through the trials of life, with hope from your Word and the guidance of others, help us to remain steadfast in our faith in you.