



SOAR

Marriage Growth-Track

Week 12 - Day 5

Walking in Wisdom

by Justin and Amber Paulk

*Those who trust in themselves are fools, but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe.
Proverbs 28:26*

Doesn't this make you wonder who would ever trust in themselves when, with just a bit of wisdom, they could be kept safe? Crazy thing is, we all do it all the time. Blessedly, the Lord forgives our folly and meets us each time we realize that ol' trusted wisdom serves us well time after time. This is what we see in this verse -

- Seek advice from those that are wise;
- Surrounding yourself with godly people is key;
- The Bible provides us with all the answers we need

Rocky III was released in 1982. In this film, Rocky ends up fighting a character named Clubber Lang who was played by the infamous Mr. T. When Lang is asked if he hates Rocky, he responds, "No. I don't hate Balboa. I pity the fool."

If you grew up in the 80s (or ever watched the colorful TV show, 'The A-Team' in which Mr. T starred), "I pity the fool" became one of those lines that most of us uttered at one point—if not all the time! It was typically followed up with a 'who' and then combined with a line about whatever they were doing. For example:

"I pity the fool who doesn't get me some nachos!"

"I pity the fool who tries to take my bike!"

"I pity the fool who thinks these shorts aren't cool!"

Again, in the movie, when Clubber is asked for his prediction for his upcoming fight against Rocky, he responds, "My prediction?" and then he looks straight into the camera and says "Pain!"

It's a ridiculous exchange but it speaks volumes to the Scripture above. When we trust ourselves, we are truly fools. And when we're fools, the result somewhere down the line is usually pain of some sort.

The Bible speaks about seeking wise counsel and oftentimes, a small group can be a tremendous source of wisdom. FOTP has so, so many different community based resources that just about anybody can tap into the collective wisdom from one of them. Addiction? Finances? Marriages? Grief? Parenting? We've got groups that focus on all these concerns and many more.

Don't trust the sole perspective of your life's journey. Seek the counsel and insight of others in a small group. Surround yourself with a community that pours wisdom back into you. Surround yourself with people who have already been through what you're going through. And surround yourself with a small group that you trust to seek wise and godly counsel from. Your small group will be there for you when you need them most and, in turn, you have the privilege of being there for them as their needs arise. It's the give-and-take of community God intended for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you been helped and encouraged by the input of a marriage mentor (official or unofficial)?
2. Would you be willing to mentor a younger or less-experienced couple in marriage?

Action Steps:

Get with your spouse this week and pray about an opportunity where you can help mentor another couple.

Prayer:

Father, we thank you so much for making the ultimate sacrifice for us. We are so grateful for what you provide and ask that you lead us to a group of people that we can learn from and give to. We ask that you give us the courage to lay down all of our inadequacies, all of our faults, and all of our fears at your feet and to give us a community that will wrap us up in their arms and surround us with knowledge and insight and wisdom when we need it most.