

## ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

### TAKING ADVICE ... *Proverbs 15:22*

**T**he ability to accept and act on good advice is fundamental to success. As Solomon said, *“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisors they succeed.”* So, who should you turn to for advice?

How do you distinguish the good and bad? Here are some suggestions.

• **Seek advice from those who know.** Leonardo da Vinci said, “Ask counsel of him who governs himself well.” I have friends whose financial advice I will gladly receive, but whose parenting advice I avoid. It depends on what they know, what they have demonstrated in their personal lives.

Do you want to learn to endure adversity? Don't ask someone who's had an easy life. Ask the one who has weathered the storms.

• **Seek advice from those who care.** I used to play *Risk* in college with a couple of friends. During my learning curve, my friend Robert once suggested I take a certain country occupied by our mutual opponent, Mark. I attacked, but succeeded only in weakening my position and Mark's position. On his next turn, Robert wiped us both out. When I complained about his bad counsel, Robert smiled and said, “In the game of *Risk*, all advice given is diplomatic.”

John Ray said, “It is a foolish sheep that makes the wolf his counselor.” This is why a salesman's advice involves purchasing his product. Make sure you listen to those who have your best interests in heart, not theirs.

• **Be willing to hear what you don't want to hear.** And be willing to do what you don't want to do. The temptation is to see advice from those who will say what you want them to say. Good advice will challenge you to rethink your approach and fine tune your strategy. Solomon also said, *“The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.”* (*Proverbs 12:15*)

Getting advice is not about allowing others to make decisions for you. Ultimately, it's up to you. You're the one who must live the consequences — all the more reason to make sure going in that you've heard from the best and are committed to following their example. • **Steve May**

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Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children's activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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