

### Chapter 1 : How to Counsel a Child for Salvation

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This is when a lot of adults back away and give the kids over to the pastor for counseling. You just need to know what to do. And it will take about minutes of your time to help lead a child to Christ. For a group of children, it might take a little longer. This is important for us adults to know how to do. Jesus told the disciples to not turn away the children, but to let them come to Him. We must be the same way. I love Child Evangelism Fellowship! They have some great resources and I want to share this one with you. This is how I counsel my Awana kids when they respond to the gospel. The Holy Spirit will take care of the rest. Ask the child, Why did you come to talk to me? Children will come to you for any number of reasons including needing to go to the bathroom, wanting candy, or a prayer request. Ask, Why do you need the Lord Jesus as your Savior? Some children may not be able to answer this. They may not be ready. You can tell them how excited you are that they are growing and learning about Jesus and that maybe on another day they might want to come to talk to you again. Ask, What did Jesus do for you? A child should be able to communicate a simple version of the gospel to you. Something like, Jesus was sent by God to the earth, He died on the cross for my sins, He rose from the grave after 3 days. Read 1 Corinthians Read and explain one of the following verses

â€” John 3: Then ask, Would you like to receive Jesus now? Tell him to come back to talk with you when he is ready. If yes, then have the child pray aloud. Give him some tips on what to pray, such as tell God why you need Jesus, what Jesus did for him, and that he believes in Jesus. Ask, What has Jesus just done? Help her to understand that God will never leave her and that He is her helper in all things. Explain that it is good to confess sin 1 John 1: Have the child pray a thank you prayer. Then pray aloud for the child. Follow up with the parents. Mark these scriptures in your Bible ahead of time. Use tabs or sticky notes and highlight the verses. Have the kids read the verses themselves if they can. And like anything, this takes practice. I still get nervous each time I present the gospel and have kids come forward. She has created Bible lessons and taught children about Jesus at churches, camps, Christian Schools, and conferences. She is the owner of FutureFlyingSaucers Resources where she helps busy parents and church leaders teach fun, flexible, multi-age, budget-friendly bible object lessons that enhance the spiritual growth of children. She lives with her husband and three children in South Carolina.

### Chapter 2 : 23 Encouraging Bible Verses About Help - Life, Hope & Truth

*Bible verses about Wise Counsel. Psalm ESV / helpful votes Helpful Not Helpful. Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*

Bible Verses About Counseling and Mentoring Prepare Yourself Spiritually Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth 2 Timothy 2: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God Colossians 3: Do not let this book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful Joshua 1: Be Compassionate Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you Colossians 3: Build each other up 1 Thessalonians 5: Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others Philippians 2: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails 1 Corinthians Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted Galatians 6: Pray for Wisdom The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him Proverbs Turn to the Bible My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge Hosea 4: See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ Colossians 2: For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart Hebrews 4: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Want more free Bible studies? Sign up to get newsletters a month announcing new Bible studies and more. Please check your email to confirm your subscription. If you do not see our email in your inbox, please check your spam folder.

### Chapter 3 : BIBLE VERSES ABOUT WISE COUNSEL

*Note: This online Bible study borrows from some of the points in the seminar, "How to Counsel from Scripture." When you give advice—“as a friend, counselor, mentor, or pastor”—it's easy to harm your effectiveness by making one (or more) of the following mistakes.*

The Counsel of the Lord Proverbs The counsel of the Lord is what we should seek every day, yet many do not. We devise our own plans, our own ideas of what we must do. Yet the Word tells us that it is the counsel of the Lord that will stand. Our own devices will fail. Spiritually, we will never go far if we direct our own steps. As these three verses describe, it is only God who can truly direct our steps. Man may try to devise his own way, but it never works out to his advantage. If we want the best, we have to trust in God and His Word. God is His Word. How does the Lord counsel us? How does He direct our steps? He directs us according to His Word. To know it, we must read and study it. When we pray to God, we should pray for Him to direct our paths. How many times have we prayed by telling God what we want Him to do? That is getting the cart before the horse! A very wise, spiritual man once said, "One great work of the spirit is to direct the heart. He may have a big fancy house, a new car, and all the latest gadgets. Yet inside he is empty and hopeless. Even in the church, people have been deceived. Christianity is not what man does, it is what God has done through Christ. Our good works did not provide our salvation. Christ dying on the cross, and being raised again is the key to our salvation. Many religions attempt to direct the flesh by way of rules and regulations. They try to make the flesh bring forth spiritual fruit, which is a vain endeavor. Only the spirit can bring forth spiritual fruit. The religion of that day prescribed that people must always wash their hands before eating. While hand-washing is good hygiene, it does not affect your spiritual health. Christ was telling the people that what you put in your mouth does not defile you, but what comes out. Man has made ordinances to direct his ways, and he has gone a step farther and made them to direct the ways of others. Spiritually, born again believers are no longer citizens of the world. Yet many Christians make themselves subject to ordinances, attempting to direct how they are to live in the flesh. It is only the Word of God that can direct a renewed mind believer to do the work of Christ. Are we glorifying God or are we glorifying man? Again, this is the one question that we should ask ourselves in every situation. Do my works glorify God? If we walk in the spirit we will always glorify Him. The Corinthians were warned about another spirit, one that works to misdirect and deceive. A person can be very religious by doing all the right things: Yet, this person will not have any spiritual fruit, and can be out of harmony and alignment with God. They will be as empty as their neighbor who buys material things to try to feel better. Whom have I in heaven but thee? By following our own devices we are foolish and ignorant. But God is there to help us if we would only listen. He will guide us with His counsel, and receive us to glory. There is no one else, in heaven or earth, to whom we should look for guidance. Literal translation according to usage:

### Chapter 4 : Psalm How To Get Help From God | [theinnatdunvilla.com](http://theinnatdunvilla.com)

*Bible verses related to Wise Counsel from the King James Version (KJV) by Relevance - Sort By Book Order Proverbs - The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel [is] wise.*

Have you ever felt the need to seek wise counsel? Each of us need someone we can turn to for advice when we are at a fork in the road. Begin seeking out wise counsel by taking the following steps: When we step out in faith and ask God to lead us to the right person, we must be careful about the packaging. The Lord may very well lead you to someone of great godly wisdom without all the earthly fluff. A good counselor or mentor is like the cream rising to the top. They are marked for their wisdom and insight over matters that cause many people to fail in dealing with issues in a righteous manner. A wise man or woman stands out because of their calm demeanor in the midst of troubling times. The faithful followers of Jesus Christ will have battle scars on their spiritual armor. Your choice of a mentor must be someone who has endured through the trials of life and yet has remained true to the Lord. Great responsibility accompanies those who are the mentors in your life. Just as Paul was a spiritual father to Timothy, so your counselor may be the paternal or maternal influence in your life. What are the characteristics necessary for a mentor? Their lives are marked with the seasoning of careful reasoning and understanding. Experience 1 Timothy 3: Resist following after the advice of a new convert as they may need more time to mature in the faith. They want you to live righteously and avoid the pitfalls of ignorance. Their speech and actions towards all people reflects the love of Christ. Integrity 2 Corinthians 1: They make great efforts to reveal the influence of Jesus on their lives. A Rare Jewel Sometimes it may take a while to find a good counselor worthy of honor. Yet the Lord knows just who you need at the right time. He will grant you direction as you draw close to Him in prayer and meditation. As the Lord grows you up through wise counsel, you will realize the position of honor in leading others as well. What is Biblical Counseling? All rights reserved worldwide Would you like to get the daily question in your FB messenger? Just click the button below to get started.

### Chapter 5 : 7 Bible verses about Advice, Seeking Advice

*Bible verses about counseling Christian counseling is only using God's Word to counsel others and has nothing to do with psychological counseling. Biblical counseling is used to teach, encourage, rebuke, and guide to help with issues in life.*

Fowler You are free to download this outline provided it remains intact without alteration. You are also free to transmit this outline electronically provided that you do so in its entirety with proper citation of authorship included. The counsel of the Lord, it will stand" Isa. Greek word paraklesis - "to come alongside to encourage" John I will send Him to you" Rom. Historical background leading up to modern counseling emphasis. Development of psychology as academic field of study 1. Sigmund Freud 3. First degree program in psychology. Carl Rogers - On Becoming a Person - Early integration of psychology in the church. Franz Delitzsch - System of Biblical Psychology - 2. Liberal acceptance of psychological premises. Wayne Oates - s - Protestant Pastoral Counseling 4. Paul Tournier - The Meaning of Persons - 5. Henry Brandt - The Struggle for Peace - 6. Oswald Chambers - Biblical Psychology - Frank Lake - Clinical Theology - Evangelical Christian counseling movement. Gary Collins - Psychology and Theology - Trinity 3. Norman Wright - Marital Counseling Talbot 4. Jay Adams - Competent to Counsel. James Dobson - Dare to Discipline. Focus on Family 6. Charles Solomon - Counseling with the Mind of Christ. Larry Crabb - Principles of Biblical Counseling. Grace Institute of Biblical Counseling. Stephen Arterburn - Growing Up Addicted. New Life Treatment Centers. Neil Anderson - The Bondage Breaker. Concerns about counseling movement. Humanistic premises of secular psychology. Must avoid over-reaction of aversion to "psychology. Eclecticism, integration, adaptation of theology and psychology. Jumping on band-wagon of 12 step, victimization, codependency, etc. Professionalizing of Christian counseling. Counsel of men rather than God? Against Biblical Counseling; For the Bible. Kilpatrick - Psychological Seduction. Paul Vitz - Psychology as Religion. Thomas Szasz - The Myth of Psychotherapy. Consideration of Christian counsel. Spirit of Christ is the Counselor - Isa. Sin is the basis of human problems. All persons affected by past patterning of sin - "flesh" - Gal. Human behavior is derivative in spirit, soul and body - I Thess. Christians are enabled to behave differently by dependence upon Jesus Christ - Col. Christians should encourage one another to love, fellowship, growth, holiness, prayer, etc.

### Chapter 6 : Seven Ways to Help Kids Memorize Scripture - allume

*Counseling, Mentoring, and Helping Others. Looking for information on biblical counseling? These online Bible studies and books offer practical, scriptural information and help for counselors, pastors, mentors and anyone else who wants to help others more effectively.*

Though the words of wisdom and counsel were based on their loving concern for us, they were still very limited. Our God who created the heavens and earth, loves us so infinitely. He sent Jesus to the cross where He died to save us, and now He continues to show His great love by counselling us. For this reason it is important to know His counsel and live by it. Then we will glorify God through a successful Christian walk. Those who do not, live in uncertainty and confusion with their lives ending finally in misery. God counsels us in to: But, here God tells us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, to totally dedicate our bodies to God. Since Jesus shed His Blood and died on the cross as our sin sacrifice, we no longer have to be slaves of sin. So, we must shake off the old habit of committing sin. If we earnestly seek the help of our Lord in prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit will quicken our conscience so that amazing will-power and determination will arise from our inner person. Then we will be able to live boldly with the power of the Holy Spirit and be able to exercise our personal will-power to walk rightly. For us to offer a "sweet smelling sacrifice" to God we must know that the "old man" was crucified, buried and is now resurrected with Christ, enabling us to truly worship God and praise Him. Our praise and worship has become a sweet smelling sacrifice, we have become an acceptable offering to God. We are His children. We need to mortify the wrong desires of our body Worship to God by those who have not crucified their sinful desires on the cross, but are still carrying old habits of sin, cannot be true worship. It may follow a form of worship, but it has not been accepted by God. They are hypocrites and religionists. Because a few Christians have not totally consecrated themselves to Christ, society has often falsely accused all Christians of being the same. We must staunchly choose to live by the counsel of God in the Word. We must offer our bodies as a "living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God". By our own human ability or effort, we cannot overcome the sinful desires of our flesh. The apostle Paul confessed: To overcome the lust of the flesh, we must totally cling unto Jesus Christ every moment of every day. When we humbly come to Him on our knees and seek His help, the Holy Spirit will empower us to overcome the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Our effort is powerless. His effort is powerful and gives us strong will-power and divine enablement. We must offer our bodies to Him as clean vessels that live in His righteousness. God admonishes us to: Originally, God gave the dominion and authority of the earth to Adam and Eve. But when they fell, they surrendered it to Satan, and evil has increased in the world since that day. However, we should not be conformed to the world. We should not be conformed to a humanistic kingdom. We must staunchly forsake atheistic secularism and not even drift toward such a trend. We are living in a wicked world, so we should renew our hearts and minds daily. We must educate ourselves in the Word of God instead of obeying the humanistic guidelines of the world. We must fear God and absolutely follow His will regarding all the issues of life. They were healed when Jesus took their infirmities on the cross. Their curse was broken and removed when Jesus Himself became the curse on the cross. Believers must remember they are in Christ Who overcame the power of death and now, because He lives, they too can live victoriously every day. As believers, dwell on these truths, and you will be transformed, enjoy the peace that Jesus has given, and live by faith. The more knowledge we learn and retain of the kingdom of God, the deeper our hearts will be renewed. We should continually study the Word of God, and then live it out in our daily lives. Such people are really selfish people and are not men and women of faith. Our Christian attitude should be: If we truly want a peaceful and good life, we must not follow the trend of the world, but daily behold the cross of Calvary, through the help of the Holy Spirit, and renewal of our hearts and minds in His grace, obeying His will. God wants us to live and follow His will all through this life. God counsels us to live according to the gift He bestowed upon each of us and according to the degree of faith apportioned by God. God does not have any unwanted children. He loves and needs each of us. Because of this He gave each of us a particular measure of faith to use in His Kingdom. Some are given the gift of prophecy, which proclaims the good news of God to

His people. God admonishes these to minister according to their degree of faith. Being recognised, or not, they should work according to the degree of their faith. God will recognise them and reward them accordingly. Some are given the gift of exhortation. These are believers who are good at encouraging people in despair. These gifted people visit and pray for people when they are passing through trials, comfort them, and share the Word of God, so that the suffering can repent, be comforted and strengthened. If you are a person who feels urged to encourage those fallen or discouraged Christians you have the gift of exhortation. You must sincerely practise your gift according to your degree of faith. We find many such Christians among the deacons and elders in our church. Some believers have received the gift of almsgiving. They have a fervent desire to give something to the hungry, the forsaken, or those in need. These people should sincerely practise their gift and God will bless them abundantly. Koreans were helped greatly by foreigners who sent tons of goods when we were suffering in the aftermath of the Korean Conflict. Now it is our turn to help the needy of our global town. I pray many more Korean Christians will receive this gift of almsgiving and benefit the kingdom of Christ. Some are given the gift of administration. With this leadership quality they manage and organise well. Some are given the gift of mercy. Wounded hearts can only be healed by Christians who minister to others with mercy. Believers with this gift visit and console Christians who are hurting. When we minister to people in our gifted area, we should minister voluntarily, not expecting any repayment from the recipient. We are to exercise our gift with a pure motive and glad heart for the glory of God. Our heavenly Father apportioned His gifts to us according to His measure. If we say it is enough that we attended church faithfully, then we must ask ourselves what does the work of God mean to us? God expands His kingdom through His children. What gift do you have? Do not bury it in the tomb of laziness. For the glory of God, find your gift, develop it, practise it and you will grow as an obedient child of God. By faith, we must receive His counsel, live rightly and return the glory to God through our maturity. God wants each of us to be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable.

**Chapter 7 : The Counsel of God | Christian Assemblies International**

*"Whoever heeds life-giving correction will be at home among the wise" (Proverbs ). Have you ever felt the need to seek wise counsel? Many times we may find ourselves in need of a person to share our thoughts with and receive direction based on God's word.*

Related Media A man was the sole survivor of a shipwreck. There he constructed a makeshift shelter and lived on what little food he had been able to salvage from the wreckage. Time after time he tried in vain to attract the attention of a passing ship. Finally, he saw a ship approaching more closely and hurriedly lit a signal fire. To his dismay, the ship passed by and was quickly fading from sight. Accidentally, the flames from the signal fire set the thatched roof of his shelter on fire. The man watched helplessly as all of his provisions burned to ashes. All was lost, he thought. But then he noticed that the ship which had passed by him had turned around and was approaching the island again. To his relief, he was seen by the crew and rescued. Once on board, he went to the captain to express his thanks. A lot of people view their problems like that marooned man. They see no point or purpose in them. Their problems drive them to despair and hopelessness. Sometimes people blame God and grow bitter because He allows trials to come into their lives. The problems bring us to the end of our own resources so that we are forced to call upon God for help. The fallen human race has a basic problem: We are not, of course, but we think we are. In order for God to communicate His love to us, He has to bring us to an awareness of our need to depend totally upon Him. We all appreciate love the most when we are most aware of our need for the person who loves us. While the analogy does not correspond completely, we can see this to some degree in a marriage. A husband or wife who is independent and self-sufficient will not appreciate the love that his or her spouse offers as much as the one who realizes his or her own needs and how the spouse meets those needs. The analogy breaks down in that it would be unhealthy to be totally dependent on a spouse. But when it comes to God, we are in fact totally dependent on Him. All things hold together in Christ Col. I take that to mean that if Christ let go, all matter would disintegrate. He is the author and giver of life. We are dependent upon Him for our next breath or heartbeat. That is the fact of the matter. But we do not experientially believe it. And so God designs problems to come into our lives so that we reach the end of ourselves, call out to Him for deliverance, and thereby experience and appreciate His great love. To receive help from God, you must come to the end of yourself and cry out to Him for His undeserved favor. That is the message of Psalm It was probably written after Judah had gone into captivity and exile in Babylon and then later returned to the land of Palestine. The psalmist wants to teach his readers how God uses trials like the exile to drive us to trust Him. The main body of the psalm consists of four poetic portraits of people in difficult circumstances. In each case the people were overwhelmed with a problem they could not solve; they cried out to God in prayer; He answered their prayer with His provision; and then there is an exhortation to praise God for what he has done. Some commentators see each of the four portraits as poetic ways of referring to the experiences of the exile. Perhaps his readers were wondering why God had allowed such trials. But as you meditate on the psalm, you begin to see that each group pictures fallen humanity from a slightly different angle. We are the wanderers, the prisoners, the sick, and the overwhelmed. The psalm is structured like a sermon. There is an introduction vv. Then he describes the four groups: Wanderers Group 3: Sick due to sin Group 4: In this section there is another cycle: Then think about it and you will see in these pictures how God works through problems. Verse 1 states the theme: The reader is to give thanks to God for His goodness and lovingkindness loyal love or undeserved favor. Verses 2 and 3 set the scene a bit more precisely by defining who it is who is to give thanks to the Lord: The idea of redemption implies antecedent bondage. The one needing redemption had fallen under the domination of some alien power. He could not free himself; he needed a redeemer to free him. God had redeemed Israel, first from slavery in Egypt and then from captivity in Babylon. We who are in Christ have been redeemed spiritually and eternally from bondage to sin, self, and Satan through the blood of Christ. Also, as we walk with Christ, we experience His deliverance from the problems we face in our everyday life. Four Pictures of Deliverance They lack the security and stability of a city to call home. They are hungry, thirsty, and fainting from exhaustion v. Finally they call out to the Lord v.

Therefore they are to give thanks to the Lord for His love and wonderful deeds v. The wanderers represent those spiritually who are lost, groping for meaning and purpose apart from God. There is no genuine meaning to life or purpose for living if you live apart from God. You can do the greatest, most noble deeds imaginable for the human race, but what ultimate good does it do? People still die in a few short years and must face eternity. I read of a boy and his brother whose grandma took them to Disneyland. During the course of the day, she bought each of them a little flag. Suddenly, the grandma realized that the four-year-old was gone! Having lost one of our children once at Disneyland, I know the panic she felt! She began frantically searching for him. Then she happened to look up at the parade marching by and there, at the end of the parade, marching along, smiling happily and waving his flag, was her grandson! He was having a great time. There are a lot of people in this world like that little boy. But someday the band will stop playing. They will be all alone, facing eternity without God. Verse 9 tells us the kind of people God helps: The hungry and thirsty soul. Those who march through life ignoring or denying their desperate need for God will not find Him. He satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul with what is good. Do you feel lost? He will lead you to Himself. They have spurned the counsel of the Most High v. Because of their sin, God humbled their hearts with labor and put them into a situation where they came to the end of themselves and found that there was no one to help. Then they cried out to the Lord and He saved them vv. Many in our culture think that their modern way of thinking is far superior to the confining mentality of the Bible. Sin is always deceptive. At first it looks great and it seems to meet your needs. His thirst is quenched for the moment, but it gives him a terrible case of dysentery which dehydrates him all the more, and his latter state is worse than his former. God graciously sends hardship to such people to the point that they stumble. All the earthly things they have relied on fail them; there is none to help v. Please note that it is God who sovereignly, graciously brings difficulties into the lives of His people who have spurned His counsel. Sick due to sin vv. The group described in these verses is clearly physically ill due to their sin see vv. The fool is not unintelligent; he is rebellious. Sin eventually takes a toll on a person emotionally and often physically. Verse 18 reads like a description of a drug addict or alcoholic who has wasted his mind and body. This group represents those who think they can sin without penalty. Again, God lets them reach the point of despair:

**Chapter 8 : How to Seek Wise Counsel—Who Should I Talk to?**

*A good tool for studying counseling. Would like to see more on how to perform premarital counseling for a mentally challenged couple who wants to get married.*

A Sample Approach To Pre-Marriage Counseling Introduction What follows is a guide for counselors to take a couple contemplating marriage, or engaged to be married, through a basic process of discovery. Counselors should feel free to adapt this approach to their own gifts and style, so long as the essentials are covered. Keep in mind also that each couple to be counseled will have different levels of spiritual maturity and needs. Circumstances among couples will also vary. Some will be engaged for the first time; others may have been married before. Children may or may not be involved. There are many possible scenarios. This guide is intended to assist you in planning and working through the counseling process with your couple. The primary source to help you in organizing your meetings will be William J. Encourage the couple to complete the assignments separately. At this point, it should be noted that if you have not read the book and done the assignments with your spouse, by all means stop and do so now! Only in this way will you be able to know what additional resources you will want to incorporate into your meetings. It will be wise to work through those passages of Scripture in Section 3, Recommended Preparation Prior to Counseling. The Criteria for Marriage. You, on the other hand, will have prepared and have a mental outline of what you would like to accomplish. That outline should include the following. For you to get to know the couple and to make them feel comfortable and at ease with you, your spouse, and with the counseling process. To discern the spiritual condition of the counselees, and the degree to which each is familiar with the spiritual history and commitment of the other. To discern problem areas which might disqualify the couple for marriage, and determine if the couple meets the qualifications for marriage. To come to an understanding of the necessity of sexual purity prior to their marriage. To outline the counseling process and what will be required of the couple. Schedule all other meetings, about one month apart, and outline what will be covered in each meeting. To clarify that no announcements should be sent out until approval by the counseling couple is given and communicated to the Officiant and church Office. Tell the couple that this final approval will not be given until after the third meeting. The following questions need to be asked in this meeting. How did the two of you meet? How long have you known each other? How long have you been dating? Are you formally engaged? How and why did you decide that you should get married? When do you plan to get married? Why do you want to get married? Why do you want to have Pre-Marriage counseling? Is it your desire to have a Christian ceremony and Christian wedding? To the best of your knowledge, what is a Christian marriage? How is a Christian service and marriage different from other marriages? How do your friends and family including children feel about your engagement? Have any expressed concerns? If so, what are they? Have either of you been married before? More questions should follow if yes L. How long ago was the last time? What is there about your present relationship that makes it different from those past instances which did not last? Describe the spiritual dimension of your relationship up to this time? How do you want your spiritual relationship to improve? Describe both the strengths and the weaknesses of your mate. What is it about your mate that attracted you? What potential problems do you anticipate in your marriage? Have you been involved in pornography in the past or are you at present? Although there is a lot to do in this first meeting, there are four things that must take priority. First, and most important; Do both the bride and groom profess faith in the Lord? The church will not be involved in the wedding if this question is not answered in the affirmative. It was mentioned earlier that it would be preferable for the couple to come unprepared for this meeting. This might be okay, but you will have missed an opportunity to gain insight into them as individuals and as a couple. Consider approaching it this way. In other words, do they know how the other came to faith and can they tell the story? From this approach, you might be able to glean the following. Does the couple talk about their faith with each other? Does the couple seem to have an interest in spiritual things? How well do they really know each other? How well do they communicate about spiritual things? As you might guess, this approach can open up some wonderful and meaningful discussion. It is a delight to hear a couple talk about

the Lord, what He has done in their life, and how He is still at work. This approach can also completely stump the couple! Second, is the couple committed to a Christian marriage as defined in the Bible? If the couple is not committed in this way, it will be impossible, for example, for the husband to obey the command of Ephesians 5: Third, does the couple have parental approval? Although not necessarily a biblical requirement for marriage, it can be inferred and is very important. Lack of parental approval is a huge red flag! Granting approval without parental consent should be an extreme exception. The church desires and expects parental approval. Take some time and find out the reason. If possible meet with the parents and have them articulate their concern. You may want to devote an entire meeting or more just to address this issue. Consult with other Pre-Marriage Counselors who may have experienced this situation, and certainly seek the counsel of the Elders and Deacons of the church. Fourth, and somewhat uncomfortable to discuss, is sexual purity. To be specific, you need to find out if the couple is involved physically and to what extent. If they are involved physically, communicate clearly the expectation that from here on to the wedding, they must commit to refraining from physical intimacy. Tell the couple you will check with them at each meeting on how they are doing on their commitment. You also need to find out if they have been involved physically with others, and have they discussed it? Although potentially very hurtful, it is better for the couple to address this issue now rather than after they are married. Have the couple turn to and read Ephesians 5: Then ask them where they stand in relation to these verses. Let the discussion proceed from there. Many in our body have witnessed first hand the tragic result of pornography and sexual abuse on individuals and married couples. You might have to meet privately, men with men, women with women, in order for this to surface as an issue to address. Christian Marriage I – Basics. The couple should come to this meeting prepared to cover these chapters. If they do not come prepared, you may be getting an indication as to how serious they are about Pre-Marriage Counseling. These meetings work best when everyone comes prepared. It would probably be better not to meet if the couple is not prepared. Simply reschedule the meeting as quickly as possible so as not to throw off the rest of the schedule. Tell the groom you are expecting leadership from him in this area and that it is now time to start demonstrating it! Having gone through the book with your spouse, you should be familiar with each chapter. If you try to cover every question from each chapter in discussion format, you will never finish a meeting! Therefore, as you and your spouse prepare for each meeting, with prayer and discernment decide which portions will be emphasized. Some portions you may cover in a lecture format but most should be through discussion. The emphasis should always be on the truth of Scripture. Remember, you will want to hear what God is teaching them through their study.

### Chapter 9 : BIBLE VERSES ABOUT COUNSEL

*Hebrews - For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

How do I counsel unbelievers? You cannot counsel unbelievers. Those two statements need explanation, of course. Let me try to help you understand. When you work with believers, your resources are vast; the Spirit and the Word operate to bring about change. Unbelievers have neither power at work in them. Moreover, the Christian counselee possesses a regenerate nature capable of understanding and appropriating biblical truth. Again, that is something the unbeliever does not have. According to Romans 8: Even if you help an unbeliever change from one outward behavior that is displeasing to God to a different one, the new behavior will also displease Him. Is that what God has called you to do? Then, what should you do to help unbelievers? The Bible tells you to precounsel evangelize them. Explain to him, God has the answers to all your problems. But they are not available to you. We cannot begin counseling until this matter is settled. Then, present the gospel. Never seek to counsel before successful evangelism has taken place, or the unbeliever may think that some change he has made pleases God when, in reality, it does not. False assurance will lead him away from Christ. Warn unbelievers not to make a false profession of faith in order to obtain counseling. Faith must be genuine. Sometimes you must help remove some impediment to evangelism in order to get a hearing. This may take the form of giving simple advice, helping a believing spouse change, etc. But never confuse those kinds of help with counseling. Second, the word "evangelize" scares off some unbelievers.