



Maranatha Baptist Church
Equip University
Christian Living Track
Fearing and Following God

Class 11 – Tools: Scripture, Prayer, and Counsel

Introduction

I. Using God's Word

Wrong Ways to Use God's Word

1. *Opening up to a random Bible verse and applying it directly to your situation.*
2. *Taking a verse out of context.*

Right Ways to Use God's Word

Four categories of guidance the Scriptures provide:

1. *Specific commands.*
2. *Biblical principles.*
3. *Biblical goals and motives.*
4. *Wisdom.*

II. Prayer

How we shouldn't pray

1. Asking God to do something He forbids.
2. Asking for a sign.

How we should pray (Matthew 6:9-13).

1. Reference God as Father.
2. Submit to God as Lord and King.
3. Recognize a daily dependence upon God.

III. Using Counsel

Bad ways to seek counsel

1. Selective counsel-seeking
2. Placing too much faith in counsel.

Good ways to seek counsel

- 12:15- The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.
- 13:10- Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.
- 15:22- Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

- 19:20- Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.

So here's some counsel on seeking counsel:

1. *Seek wise counselors.*

- A person who is godly and wise – you see Jesus in them.
- Someone who knows the Scriptures well.
- Someone who knows you.
- Someone who knows your situation.

2. *Know your advisors first.*

3. *Be completely honest.*

4. *Talk things out.*

5. *Get your counselors talking.*

Conclusion

God's good goal for us is to become like Jesus, so we make it our aim to please Him. As we walk that path, God has given us helpful tools to keep us on track: Scripture, prayer, and counsel.

Additional Resources:

- Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*
- Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*
- Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*
- John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something*
- Tony Payne & Philip Jensen, *Guidance and the Voice of God*
- James Petty, *Step By Step*

Class Outline:

1. What is the fear of man?
2. What is the fear of God?
3. How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.
4. How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.
5. How do we fear man? We fear that people will harm us.
6. A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor
7. Anxious or Restful?
8. God's Providence
9. God's Will
10. Faithfulness
11. Tools of the Trade Part 1: God's Word, Prayer, Counsel
12. Tools of the Trade Part 2: Circumstances and Feelings
13. Panel Discussion—Fearing and Following the Lord