GOOD COUNSEL

Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Ex 18:19 (KJV)

 I thank God for good counsel from wise men who loved God. My life has been better because of it. I’m sure we will never know how much we owe our parents for the wise counsel we were given as children in our early formative years. In the same line of thinking we owe a lot to our teachers in elementary and secondary schools for wise counsel. As we grow older into our adult and mature years, we see more clearly some of the wise counsel we have received and how it truly helped us.

 Around nineteen seventy-six a buddy and myself wanted to buy a whole-sale truck and the stock that was on it and start our own whole-sale business. We approached a banker about our venture and he asked to see the man’s previous years accounting records. When we presented him with them the banker began to show us where the man was losing money. He advised us to forget that venture. At that time I didn’t know that I would be getting married the following year. I was pretty mad at the banker for not loaning us the money but now I am sure glad that I wasn’t in a growing broke situation when Kathie and I married.

 In my spiritual life I can see much wise counsel that has come my way. Brother Veron Johnston led me to conviction. Pastor Dean Hampton helped lead me to salvation by plowing the gospel plow every Sunday. Brother Haskel Adamson was there to lend wise counsel when God was calling me to preach. As a pastor I received much counsel from Brother Wallace Higginbotham. He advised me in dealing with people in general; in leading a church family; and in dealing with church problems. His wise sayings have stayed with me and helped mold my own life.

 I am also indebted to some good deacons in my ministry. Brothers Ross Debter, Robert Graham, and Rayford King provided me with much counsel and on the job training. Often they provided words of wisdom that helped direct and lead the church to higher ground. Many times when I was around these men I knew the best thing for me to do was listen. Often the pastor gets credit for things that wise men like these were really responsible for.

 God has blessed me to be working in the church with many wise men and women today whose opinions I value very highly. I am blessed to have my wife who also has good counsel. Many times I would have gone off half-cocked or mad and done something in haste had she not had a calming word to slow me down enough to think about the situation. I thank God for the people he has and continues to put in my life with good counsel.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram