

Ten Pieces of Advice for Growing-Forward in 2019 and Beyond

Proverbs 13:10 - "... Those who take advice are wise."

- Godly advice based on biblical principles. Not the wisdom of this godless world that has no fear of God.

Proverbs 2:2–12 (NLT) — 2 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. 8 He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him. 9 Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will find the right way to go. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. 11 Wise choices will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe. 12 Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose words are twisted.

1. These are not limited by Age.
2. They over-lap one another—some more obvious than others.
3. These are not in any order of priority. Nor are they a "Top Ten" list. The order and even the list would change based on who I was talking with and the circumstance or situation at hand.

#1 - Learn to hear what you don't want to hear.

- Proverbs 12:1 — Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

#2 - Learn Clarity

- In Communicating
 - Say what you mean and mean what you say.
- In Thinking
 - Think through your thoughts and plans and ideas thoroughly. Get clarification and don't run in a fog or without clear direction and purpose.
- In Purpose
- Clarity requires order. If you have a disordered life or environment, you cannot have clarity.
- Relationships have crumbled; Jobs lost; Intentions miss-understood all because of a lack of clarity.
- Clarity in your Christian walk and faith.

#3 – Learn the Power of Words, Use Them Wisely.

- Do not underestimate the weight of your words.
 - Our words weigh more than we realize, especially to those closest to us. Do not underestimate the weight of your words.
 - Marriages, friendships, families, and careers are broken because of words. Wars have started because of words.
- To build up and never to tear down.

- Spirits are crushed by words; dreams are crushed.
- A weak spirit is crushed, wounded by wrong words.
- Proverbs 12:25 (NLT) — 25 Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.
- Learn to use your words to affirm others.
- Proverbs 12:18 — There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, but the tongue of the wise promotes health.
- Proverbs 18:21 (NLT) — 21 The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.
- Colossians 4:6 (ESV) — 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

4 - Read through the Book of Proverbs a couple of times this year.

- Pondering
- Prayerfully

5 – Explore Outside of Your Comfort Zone

- Growth is beyond your current place.
- Growth happens with discomfort.
- Mediocrity is the end result of too much comfort.
- Your comfort zone can actually become your prison.

6 - Create the default way of thinking of: “God’s Unlimitedness Supercedes Your Limits.”

- God’s possibilities negate the walls & cap that we accept & place on ourselves.
- Learn to reject excuses.
- *“Moses’ initial faith failed to produce obedience because it was sidetracked by his inability to remove the focus from himself and fix his gaze on God.” (The Gospel Project)*
- Accept the Truth that: If God is giving you breath, then He’s not finished with using you for His purposes. Yes, you may be more limited, in many ways...but God is not. God is NOT. We limit ourselves with small thinking and creating a small god.

#7 – Learn the Value of Time.

- When we’re young we waste it more; when we are older we tend to give up on it.
- Be careful not to devalue small portions of time.
- Ephesians 5:15–16 (ESV) — Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

8 – Increase your involvement with God.

- Join Him in what He is doing around you and wants to do with you.
- 2 Corinthians 6:1 (NKJV) — We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

#9 – Develop Selflessness and Humility

- Philippians 2:3–4 (NKJV) — Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

- Be aware of others around you. Ask yourself, “What can I do for that person?”
- Small actions will grow. From a simple smile with the intent to encourage, to going out of your way to help someone, to sharing the gift of eternal life.

#10 – **Learn how the kingdom of God operates and live accordingly.**

- Its principles, laws, and economy.
- Heaven’s government exceeds this world’s ways of operation.
- Matthew 6:33
- Colossians 3:1-4

Wrap-up

- We must never stop learning. Never stop looking for wisdom and understanding.
- I think this often needs to be spoken to us as we get older. Just because you are retired does not mean you shouldn’t or cannot learn.
- Teenagers: Believe me when I say that you do not know everything.
- **Colossians 3:1–4 (NKJV)** — **1** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **2** Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.
 - Since you have died with Him
 - Raised to new life with Him
 - Seated with Him
 - Hidden with Him
 - Your life is because of Him
 - You’ll share in His glory at His return
 - *Therefore* ... your whole identity and existence is wrapped up and linked with Jesus. Now and forever! It is all because of Jesus!