

## Practically Speaking – How?

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

“It will not answer to follow our own judgment and inclination in choosing our surroundings. We should seek counsel of God, and let Him lead. . . . Let us be willing to become pilgrims and strangers here, that we may gain a better country, even a heavenly.”—The Signs of the Times, May 29, 1884.

Suggested Readings: Testimonies, vol. 3, pp. 497–499. The Ministry of Healing, pp. 309, 310.

Sunday February 15

### 1. MAJOR DECISIONS

**a. Before making any major decisions, what should we do? Isaiah 45:11; Psalm 25:5.**

**Isaiah 45:11**

[11] Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.

**Psalms 25:5**

[5] Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou *art* the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

“The wisdom of any human agent is not sufficient for the planning and devising in this time. Spread every plan before God with fasting, [and] with the humbling of the soul before the Lord Jesus, and commit thy ways unto the Lord. The sure promise is, He will direct thy paths. He is infinite in resources. The Holy One of Israel, who calls the host of heaven by name, and holds the stars of heaven in position, has you individually in His keeping.”—Spalding and Magan Collection, p. 84.

**b. How can we know for certain God’s desire for our life? Judges 20:27.**

**Judges 20:27**

[27] And the children of Israel enquired of the LORD, (for the ark of the covenant of God *was* there in those days,

“There are ways by which the Lord leads and guides His people. God has all wisdom and all knowledge. He has said, [James 1:5 quoted]. . . . The true,

earnest seeker will give up his way for God's ways, that he may be guided into paths wherein God may choose to lead him, where the Lord has great blessings awaiting him, although it may seem to short-sighted human beings there is only loss and disaster."— 1888 Materials, p. 279.

Monday February 16

## 2. CAUTIONS

### **a. What cautions are given by the Lord and why? Proverbs 14:29; 21:5.**

#### Proverbs 14:29

[29] *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding; but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

#### Proverbs 21:5

[5] *The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.*

"Your letter tells me, my brother, that there are many who are stirred deeply to move out of Battle Creek. There is need, great need, of this work being done, and now. Those who have felt at last to make a move, let it not be in a rush, in an excitement, or in a rash manner, or in a way that hereafter they will deeply regret that they did move out."—Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 361.

"There may be individuals who will make a rush to do something, and enter into some business they know nothing about. This God does not require. Think candidly, prayerfully, studying the Word with all carefulness and prayerfulness, with mind and heart awake to hear the voice of God. . . . To understand the will of God is a great thing. .

"Should some move hastily and fly out of Battle Creek, and be brought into discouragement, they will reflect, not upon themselves for moving unadvisedly, but upon others who, they will charge, brought a pressure to bear upon them. All their discomfiture and defeat are charged back upon those who should not be reflected upon."—Ibid., pp. 362, 363.

### **b. What spiritual preparation is vital? Job 37:2; Acts 22:14. What practical preparation is needed? Proverbs 24:27; 1 Thessalonians 3:10; 4:11, 12.**

#### Job 37:2

[2] *Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound that goeth out of his mouth.*

#### Acts 22:14

[14] And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Proverbs 24:27

[27] Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

1 Thessalonians 3:10

[10] Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

[11] And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

[12] That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

“No man who can earn his own livelihood has a right to depend on others.”—Testimonies, vol. 6, p. 278.

“Take heed that there shall be no rash movements made in heeding the counsel in moving from Battle Creek. Do nothing without seeking wisdom of God, who hath promised to give liberally to all who ask, and who upbraideth not. All that anyone can do is to advise and counsel, and then leave those who are convicted in regard to duty to move under divine guidance, and with their whole hearts open to learn and obey God.”—Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 361.

Tuesday February 17  
ACTION

3. PROMPT, WELL-CONSIDERED

**a. Name some dangers of which we should be aware. Luke 14:28–30; Acts 24:25; Hebrews 3:15–19.**

Luke 14:27-30

[27] **And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.**

[28] **For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient to finish it?***

[29] **Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,**

[30] **Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.**

Acts 24:25

[25] And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

#### Hebrews 3:15-19

[15] While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

[16] For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

[17] But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

[18] And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

[19] So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

“Let everyone take time to consider carefully; and not be like the man in the parable who began to build, and was not able to finish. Not a move should be made but that movement and all that it portends are carefully considered—everything weighed. . . . To every man was given his work according to his several ability. Then let him not move hesitatingly, but firmly, and yet humbly trusting in God.”—Country Living, p. 26.

“Beware of procrastination. Do not put off the work of forsaking your sins and seeking purity of heart through Jesus. Here is where thousands upon thousands have erred to their eternal loss. I will not here dwell upon the shortness and uncertainty of life; but there is a terrible danger—a danger not sufficiently understood—in delaying to yield to the pleading voice of God’s Holy Spirit, in choosing to live in sin; for such this delay really is. Sin, however small it may be esteemed, can be indulged in only at the peril of infinite loss. What we do not overcome, will overcome us and work out our destruction.”—Steps to Christ, pp. 32, 33.

“The season for action is spent in hesitancy, thinking that tomorrow will do; but tomorrow is frequently found to be too late.”—Testimonies, vol. 4, p. 453.

#### **b. When delaying obedience to God, what is the result? Jeremiah 8:20.**

##### Jeremiah 8:20

[20] The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

“It requires discernment to distinguish the voice of God. Those who will not act when the Lord calls upon them, but who wait for more certain evidence and more favorable opportunities, will walk in darkness, for the light will be

withdrawn. The evidence given one day, if rejected, may never be repeated.”—Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 258.

“Erelong there will be such strife and confusion in the cities, that those who wish to leave them will not be able. We must be preparing for these issues. This is the light that is given me.”—The Review and Herald, April 14, 1903.

Wednesday February 18  
COUNSELORS

#### 4. IN THE MULTITUDE OF

**a. Explain how these proverbs can help in our moving to the country. Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 19:20.**

**Proverbs 11:14**

[14] Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

**Proverbs 15:22**

[22] Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

**Proverbs 19:20**

[20] Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

“While some teachers may be strong and efficient in teaching in the lines of Bible doctrines, they will not all be men who have a knowledge of practical life, and can advise perplexed minds with surety and safety. They do not discern the perplexing situation that must necessarily come to every family who shall make a change. Therefore, let all be careful what they say; if they know not the mind of God in some matters, let them never speak from a guess or suppose so. If they know nothing definite, let them say so, and let the individual rely wholly upon God. Let there be much praying done, and even with fasting, that not one shall move in darkness, but move in the light as God is in the light.”—Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 362.

**b. From what type of counselors should we ask advice? Proverbs 12:17.**

**Proverbs 12:17**

[17] *He that* speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

“O for generals, wise and considerate, well-balanced men, who will be safe advisers, who have some insight into human nature, who know how to direct and counsel in the fear of God.”—Selected Messages, bk. 2, p. 362.

**c. What else should we remember about moving to a new location?**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12.**

**Ecclesiastes 4:12**

**[12]** And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

“The lay members of our churches can accomplish a work which, as yet, they have scarcely begun. None should move into new places merely for the sake of worldly advantage; but where there is an opening to obtain a livelihood, let families that are well grounded in the truth enter, one or two families in a place, to work as missionaries. They should feel a love for souls, a burden of labor for them, and should make it a study how to bring them into the truth. They can circulate our publications, hold meetings in their own houses, become acquainted with their neighbors, and invite them to come to the meetings and Bible readings. They can let their light shine in good works.”—The Review and Herald, May 15, 1888.

Thursday February 19

5. LET HIM LEAD

**a. How does the Lord Jesus show His direction? Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 73:24.**

**Proverbs 6:23**

**[23]** For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

**Psalms 73:24**

**[24]** Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

“There are three ways in which the Lord reveals His will to us, to guide us, and to fit us to guide others. How may we know His voice from that of a stranger? How shall we distinguish it from the voice of a false shepherd? God reveals His will to us in His word, the Holy Scriptures. His voice is also revealed in His providential workings; and it will be recognized if we do not separate our souls from Him by walking in our own ways, doing according to our own wills, and following the promptings of an unsanctified heart, until the senses have become so confused that eternal things are not

discerned, and the voice of Satan is so disguised that it is accepted as the voice of God. Another way in which God's voice is heard is through the appeals of His Holy Spirit, making impressions upon the heart, which will be wrought out in the character. If you are in doubt upon any subject you must first consult the Scriptures. . . . You ought to be able to distinguish His voice."—Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 512.

**b. How has Christ led others in the past? Acts 8:29; 9:11.**

Acts 8:29

[29] Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Acts 9:11

[11] And the Lord *said* unto him, **Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,**

“And all through the generations of the past, Christ has spoken; Christ has led His people, and has been the light of the world.”—The Review and Herald, February 18, 1890.

**c. How can we be assured that Christ will lead us today in the same way? Psalm 25:9; Romans 8:14.**

Psalms 25:9

[9] The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Romans 8:14

[14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

“The Lord desires to lead us all gently and consistently.”—Manuscript Releases, vol. 1, p. 291.