

“INVICTUS”

A Lord’s Flock General Assembly Topic

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Invictus is a Latin word meaning unconquerable or undefeated. It is a short poem written by W. E. Henley about courage in the face of death, and holding on to one’s own dignity despite the indignities in life. The poem is popularly known by these last lines, “*I am the master of my faith and I am the captain of my soul.*” A lot of people are willing to offer advice to us which may be exactly what we need, but we refuse to hear. However, at times the advice tends to do more harm than good.

1. What are the consequences of heeding the wrong advice?

There are instances in the Bible that a child of God was negatively affected by listening to wrong advice.

- 1.1 Adam did what Eve advised him because she listened to the advice of the devil to eat from the tree which God forbade. This sin caused them to be separated from God (Genesis 3).
- 1.2 Aaron heeded the pressure from the people and made an idol out of the jewelry they took down from Egypt (Exodus 12).
- 1.3 Joshua listened to wrong advice from his men which resulted in their defeat in Ai (Joshua 7).
- 1.4 Samson chose the wrong woman (Delilah) and ended up losing his strength, eyesight and life (Judges 16).
- 1.5 King Saul lost his position as king when he chose to do as the people wanted (1 Samuel 13).
- 1.6 Solomon had a lot of wives who led him away from God and worshiped false Gods (1 Kings).

2. 1. When do we usually get the wrong advice?

- 2.1 When we choose to listen only to what we want to hear.
- 2.2 When we seek fake advice in social media, print media, horoscopes, personalities, psychics and others that do not offer good and reliable advice.
- 2.3 When we are stubborn, easily offended, not teachable and refuse to be corrected.
- 2.4 When we want to gratify the I, me, mine and we often listen to the advice from self-talk.

2.5 When we lack the necessary information to make the right decision. A little knowledge can be a bad thing (Romans 13).

3. How do we know if we are getting good advice?

We should ask the following questions:

- 3.1 Is it honoring God?
- 3.2 Is it advice that will show us who God is? (2 Timothy 4)
- 3.3 Does this person giving advice have the right experience? (Proverbs 13:18)
- 3.4 Does this person have my best interest at heart? (Sirach 37:11-14)
- 3.5 Can this person be trusted to help me develop an objective view of my life?
- 3.6 Will the advice go against God?
- 3.7 Will this person tell me what I need to hear?

4. How and where can we seek the right advice?

- 4.1 Through the Holy Spirit (Ps. 32:7-8), The H.S. is the one promised by the Lord to instruct us on what we should do. He is our counselor (John 14:16-17).
- 4.2 Through the scriptures, “The Word of God is the light to our feet and the lamp to our path.” (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- 4.3 Through the right people with expertise on the matter, God uses people to give advice – medical doctors for our health, lawyers for legal matters, accountants for money and business matters, bankers for investments, parents for children, etc.
- 4.4 Through prayers, Jesus always prays to God. God’s advice is never wrong.
- 4.5 Through people, we admire and respect with wisdom, credibility and experience.

Conclusion:

God has given all of us great purpose; to live within a meaningful mission. Sometimes, the advice we get is good on all sides but we could not discern on what step to take. There will be people who will discourage us not to pursue it but if we listen to what God says, we will be the happiest, happy of what God is doing in our life. We should always seek good advice and be receptive to constructive criticism to allow us to continue with our mission.

Reflection: 1. What is your mission in life?

2. Are your plans in line with the Scriptures?

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