

Message from God's Life-Giving Word
December 16, 2018
He Will Be Called... Wonderful Counselor

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government is on His shoulder, and His name is called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
Isaiah 9:6

- What's in a Name?

*For we do not have a **high priest** who is unable to **empathize** with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with **confidence**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us **in our time of need**.* Hebrews 4:15-16

- Where are you currently or have been recently in a time of need?

We have a Wonderful Counselor

1. Be brutally _____.

*Cast your burden on the Lord and **He will sustain you**.* Psalm 55:22

2. Learn to _____.

*My sheep **hear My voice** and I know them and they **follow Me**. I give them eternal life and they will **never perish**. And **no one** will snatch them out of my hand.* John 10:27-28

3. _____ it!

*"Teacher," he declared, "**all these** I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and **loved him**. "One thing you lack," he said. "**Go, sell everything** you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this **the man's face fell**. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Mark 10:20-22*

- Who/what do you trust? Why?

On a scale of 1-10 (1 = never and 10 = always):

a. I listen to and follow the counsel of Jesus as I make daily decisions. _____

b. I daily read my Bible to seek His wise counsel and advice. _____

c. I am sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. _____

d. When I feel guilty I confess my sins to God and the offended person. _____

e. I respond quickly when God places someone on my heart. _____

f. I am connected to other believers where I can safely receive Christian counsel, advice and accountability. _____

*He was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and **by His wounds we are healed**.* Isaiah 53:5

Next Steps

1. Journal the following: How did you answer the six questions above? Why do you believe you are where you are? What can you begin today to continue to grow in these areas?

2. Read Hebrews 4 and Isaiah 9:6. Spend some time journaling or talking with a trusted friend about what it means to have Jesus as your High Priest and Wonderful Counselor, especially at Christmas.

3. Do you need an appointment with your Wonderful Counselor? Decide on one concrete way you will spend more time listening to Him.

REMEMBER: *Your time in daily devotion and prayer is not just for your benefit. It's also for the benefit of others. Share what God is teaching you.*