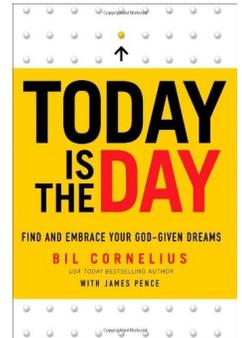


**Chapter 13.** Get the Right Advice. (Proverbs 4:7)

**Leader:** The secret to improvement is to play with guys who are better than we are. When seeking advice from others, it pays to be sure we are the smallest fish in the pond. In other words, we should attempt to surround ourselves with people who have much more experience and success than we do. Personal coaching is all the rage these days. Not all coaching is worth our time and money. We should seek advice from those who have genuine success under their belts. Another way to take our expertise to the next level is to become part of a “mastermind group”. Sharing our problems and ideas with others in a “mastermind group” will help us overcome difficulties. When getting advice from others we must be sure their personal results match our goals, they are practitioners and not just theorists, they lead healthy lives and organizations, and their practices are transferable to our situations.



*Question: How do you know if you're getting the right advice from someone?*

**Leader Note:** There are three critical relationships we should seek, (1) someone to mentor us, (2) someone who is a very close friend, and (3) someone we can mentor. Successful people invest in themselves. Brian Tracy recommends we invest at least one percent of our income into our own professional development. Wisdom will guide us, protect us, and encourage us to success.

**Chapter 12.** Choose to Be a Blessing. (2 Corinthians 9:10-11, Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10, John 10:10, 2 Samuel 23)

**Leader:** Christians have a responsibility to give to God's work. When we give, we should not expect to get rich in return. We can expect God to bless us financially to not only take care of our own families but also to be a blessing to others. It is selfish for us to ask for enough to simply “get by”. When there is just enough for ourselves, there is nothing left to help others for God's kingdom. God wants to bless us so we can be a blessing to others. We should give the first ten percent and not our leftovers. As we give, God will lead us to be able to earn more income. As we earn more, we are able to give more to affect more lives for Christ. God will give us a business idea or an investment idea that we cannot shake from our minds. We are to see these ideas as His blessings on us. God gives us resources of the mind, too. When we think big, we can achieve big, and we can give big. We can also live big and guilt-free. If we have larger-than-life dreams, we must realize that God put those dreams in our hearts for a reason. There is nothing wrong with living first class if we are giving first class.

*Question: How is God guiding you to be a blessing to others through the dreams He has given to you? What are you doing now to be a blessing to others?*

**Leader Note:** When we dream of what we can have someday, we get excited; when we dream of what we can give someday, God gets excited - and involved. Whatever we are giving now, God will amplify as we achieve more and more of our dreams, but we need to build a habit of being a blessing now.