



When You Question Your Husband's Counsel

In chapter two of *A Wife's Secret to Happiness* I talk about the value of a godly husband and how I often struggle with disqualifying my man from a leadership role in my life. I default to wanting a friendly hubby, not a godly one. Preferring Jared whisper sweet nothings and agree with everything I say instead of leading and loving me through even difficult conversations and circumstances.

The idea of having godly men give us support and advice sounds glorious in theory. But what if in actuality your hubby's plans tend to flame out or blow up before reaching the final destination? What if you're unsure if you can trust your spouse's counsel?

The first step is to uncover why this area of your relationship is so difficult for you. Often times, the uncertainty comes from a negative past experience—whether with your husband or another authority figure. **The outright avoidance of spousal counsel is always tied to a lie we've believed.** Here are a few common falsehoods the enemy tries to sneak in, and some truths to oppose his scheming:

Lie: He doesn't care.


Truth: Your man loves you. He wants good things for your life, even if he's not always quick to contribute to them in the ways you most desire right now.

Lie: His advice never works out.

Truth: Never? Not even the tiniest bit even once? Usually the truth is that sometimes the advice works out, sometimes we don't take the advice they give us, and sometimes we ask for counsel too few times to earn good sample data.

Lie: If I ask him, then I have to do what he says.

Truth: "Without counsel plans fail, but with *many* advisers they succeed" (Prov. 15:22—emphasis mine). "Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but *in an abundance of counselors* there is safety" (Prov. 11:14—emphasis mine). Scripture encourages us to seek wisdom and to find *many* trusted advisors. Your



husband can be one of those contributing voices as you weigh different words of guidance you receive in your decision making.

Some areas of life necessitate spousal collaboration. Where to live. Employment. Children's education. Even if you struggle trusting your husband's perspective in these areas, you must make these determinations together. Those aren't times to sideline your husband's thoughts for your preferred course of action. When I talk about seeking his counsel, I'm talking about the areas of life where you *invite* his involvement as a trusted partner. Seeking his opinion as you would another friend.

Lie: He's not wise enough to give me advice.


Truth: You may be blessed with wiser counselors. Friends and loved ones who've seen more, lived more, and who may even talk with God more than your husband does. But we must remember that God always equips us to complete our callings, and part of your man's calling as your mate is to love and care for you. Let him practice seeking the Lord on your behalf when you ask for his guidance.

If the idea of asking for your husband's counsel leaves you with that "Oh-no-he-didn't." look on your face, take baby steps. Here's how:

Seek God with him. Find time to pray about things together. Ask him to begin praying with you and asking God for insight in your individual quiet times.

Give him time to think. I like to mull over a decision for days, sometimes weeks, then come to Jared, lay out the topic, and receive his immediate inspired wisdom right there on the spot. Most people can't offer sound advice like that. *I* can't spout wisdom like that. Give your guy time to think. He may even ask other counselors in his life for feedback before he comes back to offer his thoughts. (Hint: You can also ask him to seek feedback from others as part of his process.)

Find entry level concerns and ask for his suggestions. You don't need to start off asking your man for counsel on your life purpose. Talk with him about a conflict with a friend and go beyond just having him listen—ask what he thinks. Bring a work problem or a scheduling conflict and get his thoughts on how to resolve the issue. Identify a natural strength in his life and see how you can apply that ability to



seek his perspective. For example, if he's a fisherman he may be good at rest, peace, and patience. Are there areas in your life you could use more of those qualities?

Give thoughtful consideration to what he says. It's super discouraging to have someone ask for your feedback only to completely disregard what you say. Just because your hubby offers a thought, that doesn't mean you need to take it blindly. But choose to see his words as weighty. Ask him to expound or help you consider his perspectives along with other counsel to find the best solution. Share gratitude for his input.

Appreciate the different way God talks to him. Every year our church has a special offering for various outreach projects. Our pastor encourages members to ask God if he wants us to contribute and if there's a specific amount to commit to. I'll never forget the first year Jared and I participated in this. We prayed about it separately and then shared our numbers to see if we were on the same page. Jared heard a specific dollar figure. I heard a percentage of our income. The figures matched perfectly.

Your man will hear God differently than you do, because God and your guy, they have a relationship unique to the two of them. Honor that. You may come asking for counsel about a coworker relationship and he comes back saying all he hears from God is the word "pineapple." Don't discount this as wasted energy or foolish counsel. What would it hurt to ask the Lord for clarity on what he may be saying through a spiny fruit?

And my final tip for what to do if you question your husband's counsel? If you can't get over this hump and the concepts I shared don't sit right in your spirit, seek counsel. Talk with a wise friend who you can trust to hear God and get perspective on how to involve your mate's voice in different areas of your life. The Lord wants to use him for your good.