



Before You Seek Advice

A quiet guide for choosing when to share, what to share, and whose counsel to trust.

DISCERNMENT • LOYALTY • HUMILITY • WISDOM • DISCRETION

Seeking counsel can bring clarity. It can also strengthen a story we already want to believe.
Before inviting another voice into the situation, take a moment to consider what you are seeking
-and whether this conversation will protect both truth and trust.

Why am I sharing this?

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Wisdom | ☐ Perspective | ☐ Validation | ☐ Reassurance |
| ☐ An ally | ☐ To vent | ☐ To influence how they see this person | |

01 Is this person wise - or simply available?

Availability is not the same thing as sound judgment.

02 Will this conversation help me think more clearly,

or reinforce what I already want to believe?

03 Am I sharing information that belongs partly to someone else?

Consider whether honesty requires telling every detail.

04 Have I spoken directly to the person involved?

Counsel should not become a substitute for a needed conversation.

05 Would I be comfortable with them hearing exactly what I'm about to say?

If not, what does that discomfort tell me?



FROM SHARING TO DISCERNMENT

Choose the Right Voice

Not every caring person should have equal influence over every part of your life.

BEFORE I GIVE THIS PERSON A VOTE, I CAN ASK:

- ☐ Do they know enough of the situation to offer informed counsel?
- ☐ Do they value truth more than simply taking my side?
- ☐ Do they respect the dignity of the people involved?
- ☐ Do they encourage direct, mature communication?
- ☐ Do I trust their judgment - not merely their affection for me?

WHAT DO I ACTUALLY NEED FROM THIS CONVERSATION?

A few questions to carry with you:

- Would I still share this if I knew the person involved were sitting beside me?
- Am I asking for counsel - or collecting agreement?
- After this conversation, will I be more prepared to act wisely and speak directly?

Wisdom listens to many voices.

Discernment decides which ones deserve influence.

Choose counsel that makes your judgment clearer - not merely louder.



Seek wisdom without surrendering judgment. Share honestly without forgetting discretion.