



# The true counselor

December 9, 2019

**ISAIAH 9:6 NKJV – (6)** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

It takes courage to seek therapy. Therapy is a vulnerable act, as you entrust a stranger with your innermost thoughts and feelings. So it can be especially disappointing and distressing when you have a bad experience. Sometimes the counselor will tell you only so much, to get you back for the next session (Money). It might even taint your view on the entire process and system.

Isaiah calls the Messiah the “Wonderful Counselor” indicates the kind of character this coming King has. The word *wonderful* in this passage literally means “incomprehensible.” The Messiah will cause us to be “full of wonder.” The word is much weightier than the way it’s used in normal conversation today—we say things are “wonderful” if they are pleasant, lovely, or the least bit likable. Jesus is wonderful in a way that is boggling to the mind.

Jesus demonstrated His wonderfulness in various ways when He was on the earth, beginning with His conception in the womb of a virgin (**Matthew 1:23**). He showed He is the “wonderful” One in His power to heal (**Matthew 4:23**), His amazing teaching (**Mark 1:22**), His perfect life (**Hebrews 4:15**), and His resurrection from the dead (**Mark 16:6**). Jesus taught many wonderful things that are counterintuitive to the human mind: “Blessed are those who mourn” (**Matthew 5:4**). “Rejoice and be glad” in persecution” (**Matthew 5:11–12**). “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you” (**Luke 6:27**). Jesus’ kind of wonderful is awe-inspiring and superior to any other kind, for He is perfect in every way (**Matthew 5:48**).

The second part of the Messiah’s title is the word *counselor*. In ancient Israel, a counselor was portrayed as a wise king, such as Solomon, giving guidance to his people (**1 Kings 4:34; Micah 4:9**). Isaiah uses this word again in **28:29** to describe the LORD: “This also comes from the LORD of hosts; he is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.” Jesus is a wise counselor. “He did not need any testimony about mankind, for he knew what was in each person” (**John 2:25**). He is able to advise His people thoroughly because He is qualified in ways no human counselor is. In Christ is “hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (**Colossians 2:3**), including the knowledge of all human nature (**Psalms 139:1–2**). Jesus always knows what we are going through, and He always knows the right course of action (**Hebrews 4:15–16**).

Christ’s position as our Wonderful Counselor means we can trust Him to listen to our problems and guide us in the right direction (**Proverbs 3:6**). We can be sure He is listening because He told us to pray to Him about our worries (**Philippians 4:6; James 1:5**). We can be certain He has our best interests at heart because He loves us (**1 John 4:19**). And His love is so wide and deep (and wonderful) that we cannot fully understand it (**Romans 5:8**).

SCRIPTURE READING: **HEBREWS 4:12**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Seek **His** counsel in everything!