

- A desperate prayer.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it (**John 14:13-14**).

- A confident heart.
- An appeal for wisdom.

Their method is deception.
Their motive is to destroy.
Their effect is deadly.

The words of the reckless pierce like swords (**Proverbs 12:18**).
With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors (**Proverbs 11:9**).
The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood (**Proverbs 12:6**).

Their means is lying.

- Our real protection.

When—not if—your reputation suffers an undeserved injury, your quiet integrity over time will say all that needs to be said.

-Ray Ortlund

Let the name of Whitefield perish, but Christ be glorified. ... I am content to wait till the judgment day for the clearing up of my reputation; and after I am dead I desire no other epitaph than this: "Here lies G. W. What sort of man he was the great day will discover."

1. When criticized, honestly evaluate yourself.
2. Don't let criticism paralyze you.

Very few dreams should go on hold while you improve the shortcomings of your life.
To be sure, there are times when you need to stop what you are doing and focus on conquering a flaw.

But .. all of our advances are with a limp.

If you wait till you are beyond criticism to pursue your dream you will never do it.

You won't marry or stay married. ...

You won't take your first job or keep it.

You won't go into missions or stay there.

Few things paralyze people more than their own imperfections.

And there are always people around you to remind you of your flaws and suggest you can't move forward until you're better.

-John Piper

3. When targeted with criticism, respond factually, not defensively.

Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
or you yourself will be just like him (**Proverbs 26:4**).

Answer a fool according to his folly,
or he will be wise in his own eyes (**Proverbs 26:5**).