Michael Goulian's Top 10 Tips For Proficient Piloting

1) Learn and understand the Pitch-Power-Performance concept.

2) Know and respect the limits of your piloting skills.

3) Know and respect the limits of your aircraft.

4) Don't ever fly when you're at the limits of your personal skills or the aircraft's capabilities. Reach either one and you're "hanging it out there." Reach both simultaneously, and disaster is lurking.

5) Don't substitute technology for judgment.

7) If you rely on your machine to work perfectly to keep you out of trouble, you're in trouble.

8) Work on short-field landings without the aid of your electronics. If you think 3,000 feet in a light single is short, you need more practice.

9) Listen to your airplane—it's always talking to you. That new vibration you've felt for the past few hours on the Hobbs might just be getting ready to ruin your day.

10) Poor airspeed control is the result of poor attitude control. Watch your pitch attitude, and your airspeed will behave.

   * Did you notice that number 6 is missing? It is "6) Pay attention to the small details!"