

THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Hebrews 3:13

Introduction: We follow through on the things for which we are held accountable. We all need encouragement to persevere, grow in and stay true to the Faith.

1. Why Is It Necessary For You To Be Accountable To Someone In The Spiritual Realm?

1. You Need Accountability Because Anyone May Fall, “so that none of you’ KJV, ASV, RSV, NASB77 render it “Lest anyone of you...” 1 Co. 10:12
2. You Need Accountability Because Falling Into Sin Is A Gradual Process...”be hardened”
3. You Need Accountability Because Sin Is Deceitful (“the deceitfulness of sin” that which gives a false impression, whether by appearance, statement or influence.)
 - Same word used of Satan who deceived Eve (2 Co. 11:14; 1 Tim. 2:14).
 - Genesis 3:13 “The Serpent deceived me and I ate,” is her excuse, but the excuse doesn’t hold and God still judges her sin.
 - Note Satan’s tactic with Eve. i.e. 2 Co. 11:14-15
 - See Genesis 3:1-5 Satan:
 - Casts doubt on God’s Word or command. 3:1
 - Casts doubt on God’s judgment. 3:4
 - Presents sin in the best light. 3:5

2. What Do You Do When You Encourage Someone?

1. Parakaleo - to urge one to pursue some course of action, with regard to the future as somewhat contrasted with comfort, which is comforting someone about a past situation. Sought, beseech, pray, pleading.
2. What is involved in your encouragement? Coming along beside the person and encouraging them or exhorting (parakaleo) them to:
 - Acts 2:40 be saved from the perversions of the world around us
 - Acts 11:23 cleave to the Lord in consistent faith
 - Acts 14:22 endure or be prepared for tribulation
 - Acts 15:32 be faithful with many words or a lengthy message from the Word
 - 2 Co. 9:5 be faithful in giving what they had committed to give
 - 1 Thess. 5:14 admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
 - 1 Tim. 2:1 pray with thanksgiving
 - 1 Tim. 6:2 be good workers (employees) for believers or unbelievers
 - Titus 2:6 be sober minded
 - 1 Pet. 2:11 stay clear from sins of flesh that war against your soul
3. How do you encourage them?
 - Mark 1:40, Matt. 8:5 As the leper and the centurion beseeching, imploring, begging Jesus to heal.
 - 1 Thess. 2:11 As a father pleading with his own children.

3. When Do You Encourage Someone?

As long as it is called today (NOW)

4. Whom Do You Encourage?

One another - yes, pastors have this as a particular responsibility, but each of us is to encourage one another. Eph. 4:12-16; 1 Thess. 5:11

Conclusion: Take action! Become accountable! Be an encourager!

HOW TO APPLY THE PRINCIPLE OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Hebrews 3:13

Encouraging One Another Daily

1. Seek out another Christian with whom you can share and be honest. Choose someone outside your own home. It's too easy to make excuses with someone in your own home.
2. Choose two time periods during the week, convenient to both, when you can call each other and talk for about 15 minutes. (i.e. Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 9:30 p.m.)
3. Follow this schedule for your conversation.
 - a. Each one of you praise the Lord for something(s) from the week. (i.e. an answer to prayer, victory over sin in a specific situation, the provision of a need, etc.)

How to share a testimony:

 - (1) Tell what the specific need or problem was and give necessary details without being boring or gory.
 - (2) Tell how you attempted to solve the need or problem.
 - (3) Tell how God worked to meet the need or give victory.
 - b. Each one of you share briefly, in a sentence or two, something you have received from God's Word. No sermons!! Just tell why it was meaningful to you and how you applied it to your life. Don't preach it to your partner.
 - c. Each share a specific need, a particular problem or prayer request. Each one should include in this a specific prayer for one unsaved friend or loved one.
 - d. If a particular problem comes up more than once work out specific steps to solving the problem. Heb. 10:24-25.
 - e. Each pray for the other's specific requests. Write down requests if you need to in order to remember to pray for them throughout the week.
 - f. Encourage one another to share specific praise items in bible studies and in conversation with other believers.
4. Seek to join together at least once a month over a meal for face to face fellowship.
5. Seek to stick to the above schedule. Unless there are specific emergency needs it is best to keep the conversation brief otherwise they will become a drain on your time schedules.

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER
For
Personal Integrity & Godliness

These accountability Questions are to be asked of one another in a weekly meeting of accountability which values honest, confidentiality and integrity (Pr. 27:17; Jms.5:16; Gal. 6:1-5). These questions are only as helpful as you are willing to be honest and vulnerable.

1. Have you been a verbal testimony this week to the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life?
2. Have you been faithful to your prayer commitment this week?
3. What can you share with me specifically that God showed you through your Bible study this week?
4. Are you giving to the Lord's work regularly and proportionately?
5. Have you lacked any integrity in your financial dealings?
6. Have you given priority time to your family? How?
7. Have you damaged another person by your words either behind their back or face to face?
8. Have you been plagued by any specific sin this week?
9. Have you continued to remain angry toward another?
10. Have you secretly wished for another's misfortune so that you might excel?
11. Have you fantasized a romantic relationship or been in a compromising situation with a member of the opposite sex or have you viewed any questionable material?
12. Have you just lied to me about any of this?

**But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today,
so that none of you may be hardened
by sin's deceitfulness."**

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV)

EVANGELISM PRAYER FOCUS

Each of you is to prayerfully identify 3-6 people whom you feel are your highest evangelistic priorities or those you consider least likely to respond to the gospel. List their names on this sheet. Pray through the following prayers for each individual mentioned at least once every week. Keep this sheet in your Bible as a book mark and a reminder for you to pray for these people. Check the box next to each name when they accept Christ as their Savior.

<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

Pray that...

1. God draws them to Himself as only He can. Jn. 6:44
2. They seek to know God. Acts 17:27
3. They believe the Word of God 1 Thess. 2:13
4. Satan is kept from blinding them to the truth. 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Tim.2:25-26
5. The Holy Spirit would convict them of their sin and their need for Christ's redemption. Jn 16:8-13
6. God would send someone who will share the gospel with them (He might send you!) Mat. 9:37-38
7. God would give you the opportunity, the courage and the right words to share the truth with them. Col. 4:3-6; Eph. 6:19-20
8. They turn from their sin. Acts 17:30; 1 Thess. 1:9-10
9. They would put all their trust in Christ. Jn. 1:12; 5:24
10. They would make Christ the Lord of their lives. Rom. 10:9-10
11. They would take root and grow in their faith. Col 2:6-7

A Fishing License

This verifies that the bearer of this card is licensed by all the authority of heaven and earth, (Mt. 28:18-20) to fish for men's souls wherever he may go. There is no limit to your catch. This license expires at death, when the Lord returns, or all the people have been caught, whichever comes first.

Signature of card holder