

THE BASICS OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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The fatal human trait of blaming others for the things that go wrong in our lives, will always leave us at the mercy of others. Blaming others isn't empowering; it traps us in failure rather than building our character. The solution is short term and often painful... we need to take responsibility for our life and the outcome of our choices, especially when they go wrong! The bible offers a perfect solution with lots of help along the way.

The first mistakes were made by Adam and Eve. GEN 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **13** And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. *Three mistakes were made; none took accountability for their errors... it cost them all very dearly.*

Adam, Eve and the serpent all made errors with tragic consequences.

God admitted his own failings as well. GEN 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** And it '**repented**' the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. *God took accountability and made changes to repair the failings before him. God has already set an example for us: restore your life.*

The first and continuing steps to activate God's power in your life.

Handing over to God is the first step of accountability. PRO 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. *Repentance, water baptism and the anointing of the spirit turn the 'impossible' into a working reality.*

Follow scriptural principles... no one else has a more effective way than God.

Salvation directions... actions of accountability. ACT 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? **38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

God backs up his promises with consistent proof.

The things that work against accountability.

PRO 19:3 The foolishness of man perverteth (*corrupts*) his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord.

MAT 23:24 Ye **blind guides**, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. *Fault finding can be fatal.*

JAM 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. *Your choices.*

Let's go back to the original solution...

The opposite to the guilt trip. PRO 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. **6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. *Offer this to others as well.*

Playing the victim card is for losers, not for empowered and effective Christians.

You are not a failure until you start blaming others for your shortcomings. ROM 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. *This is the failed way of the world... not of the Lord.*

God offers to direct our future as well... far better than we can.

God offers to be accountable for our future. JER 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. **12** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. **13** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. *God offers us a solution as he always has done; we should do the same.*

Accountability leads to good choices which leads to far better outcomes.

Choices need to be made. GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. *By admitting our shortcomings, we offer God the opportunity to teach us and build us up.*

ROM 14:7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. **8** For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. **10** But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. **11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **12** So then **every one of us shall give account** of himself to God. **13** Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. *The way of God is simple and consistent... we are never alone and always loved.*

We all have a strong and ongoing desire to be loved, respected and cared for... this is on offer 24 hours a day for those who take account of their spiritual lives.

God has given us much more ability than what our will power alone can manage... thus we are encouraged to pray in the spirit, walk in the spirit and act in the spirit. JUDE 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. **22** And of some have compassion, making a difference: **23** And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. *Decisions need to be made: you won't always get it right, but God will.*