

Accountability:

Who is accountable for our dealings?

What does accountability mean? Accountability defines responsibility: to whom is credit and/or blame assigned. Whose job, whose duty is it to recognize the liability of one's actions? The Bible depicts many characters who, at times, circumvented their responsibility in their attempt to save face. Yet upon examining their actions, it becomes quite evident they alone were the ones accountable for their actions.

- *Was the snake the sole reason for Eve's transgression or was she responsible for her own actions?*
- *Did Eve force Adam to take of the forbidden tree or was he also accountable?*
- *Did Noah taint the people around him to become evil or was it their liability for sinning?*
- *Is Lot responsible for his wife becoming a salty pillar or was it her own lust for the city that prompted her to look back?*
- *Was David the sole reason that Bathsheba sinned or was she liable for her own actions? Nothing written evidences she was raped, failing to cry out. No, she partook of the forbidden willingly. Dt 22:22~29*
- *Was David the ultimate reason behind King Saul's hatred or was Saul venting disappointment of himself?*
- *Was Delilah the reason Samson lost his strength or did Samson leave his calling?*
- *Were Job's friends the reason for Job's trouble? Why didn't Job heed the advice of his friends, for the message was from God through his friends? Job 4:12~21*

*Where does the accountability of one's dealings, one's actions lie? **The responsibility lies with self.***

*Job suffered due to his self-righteousness. Yah used this trait as a universal example to bring Job and all of us that have eyes to see and ears to hear to a HIGHER LEVEL. Job 32:1~3 To advance on the ladder of spiritual growth one must dispose of all excess baggage. Just like the friends of Job, those around us are often used as irritants to expose the errors lying within the self which Yah is revealing for us to repair. Thus Job reasoned to himself "I can't see **my sins**, my so-called problem, because all I see and hear is you guys annoying me. You must be the reason that I feel so bad." Such a conclusion leads to an explosion of emotional, yet irrational feelings.*

*We all have a tendency to assign troubles away, to blame them on others instead of looking introspectively. A simple way to examine our feelings, identifying them as **our problem** associated with "self," or as feelings arising from an external source, from another person or thing, is to consider the following: Am I the one carrying the anxiety, having feelings of bitterness, churning with anger and resentment or does another person hold me in contempt? Is it in fact my anger that burns inside as I attempt to **rationalize my life** avoiding any accountability for my personal dealings laced with irresponsible idealism?*

*Blame can be shared, but the accountability of personal actions lies solely with the person. Things or people afford one opportunities for releasing the carnality of the inner self, which eventually produces anxiety as one seeks to avoid accountability for un-repented **selfishness**. Just as Job rationalized his position before Yah, we likewise only want to see one side of reality...ours. Thus the question becomes: wherein does the responsibility lie for such outbursts of emotional immaturity? The answer: Ourselves!*

If temptation originates from outside, one could run away from its presence and escape its grasp. "Running away" is not the message given to us through the word, but "fleeing evil no matter where it lies" is a scriptural instruction. Those that have run away from their responsibilities shortly find their problems soon follow, which being unaddressed, come to strangle their lives. Sin is an amusing gift unique to those holding it, even to the point of scary; as it just keeps on giving no matter where you are.

*It takes two to tango; evil needs a partner; it needs someone to accept what it's **selling!** Sin has many forms; all associated with the transgression of Yah's law. Whether gainsaying, lusting, fornicating, stealing and the exaltation of self...all have the same thing in common. **Its needs you're participation to make it work.***

Jm 1:13 ~15 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, **when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.** Then when lust hath **conceived**, it bringeth forth **sin**: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth **death.**

*Temptation comes from our own evil desires that lie within. We are drawn away by our **own lust**, our own evil nature, not someone else's. No, the devil didn't make me do it; he just entices the evil that one carries within to follow his lead. If I am able to be enticed to sin, then in fact desires, evil cravings were in me all the time, being drawn out, seizing the opportunity to manifest themselves.*

One is unable to produce something from nothing. A desire must live within one's self, whether it is a seed or grown into maturity to be drawn out, to come forth. I can't play the piano if I don't know how, nor can I sin if it's not a part of my nature. It's virtually impossible to entice a response out of a person who has no desire to participate. We have been given free moral responsibility. Thus one must want to participate willingly through self desire not blaming some outside irresistible force. The same applies with sin; though I have sin in me, it's up to me to control it by subduing it or it will overpower me.

Mt 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the **heart**; and they defile the man.

Note that defilement comes from the heart, from within the inner man. It has a home, living within you, waiting to be drawn out to defend its domain.

Pr 5:22~23 **His own iniquities** shall take the wicked **himself**, and he shall be holden with the cords of **his sins**. He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of **his folly he** shall go astray.

1Cor 3: 13~20 **Every man's work shall be made manifest**: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall **try every man's work** of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; **yet so as by fire.** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? **If** any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man **DECEIVE HIMSELF**. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their **own craftiness**. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are **vain**.

Paul, preaching Yah's words, does not support self justification. Knowing that you are His temple as He lives within you, one needs to be accountable for one's own personal dealings. Holding His words in contempt will lead us to the fires of His correction. We deceive ourselves every time we justify our actions with craftiness, worldly wisdom, vanity, pride, narcissism, conceit and arrogance, all used for the exaltation of our self-importance dismissing any accountability.

Ro 6:1~23 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as

Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should **walk in newness of life**. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that **henceforth we should not serve sin**. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin:** but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law (*the sacrificial system*), but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law(*the sacrificial system*), but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that **to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for **as ye have yielded** your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sometimes the world seems to be moving so fast that one just wants to get off in a quiet place to reflect, catch your breath. During such moments is one to meditate about the reality of life or their reality seen through their own actions? Would such thoughts be honest, freed from the fumes of resentment? Many might stop but few seldom search for truth. One does not start revealing what is truly going on in one's life until exposing oneself to the mirror of reality. Remember, while in distress few see themselves and the events for what they are. It's a trial; that if genuinely pursued, produces patience that becomes a red flag waving The Words, "just what I needed at the moment, more training."

*As Shakespeare long ago stated, life is like a play or a movie with each player performing his or her part. Sometimes one has the lead, other times becoming the supporting actor, yet all join in producing the film called "**My Life**." Trials are caused by the way one plays the part. If one breaks the law, say by stealing, one is now chastened by the authority. Yet it's not the police that are the source of the problem, but the fact that one broke the law by stealing. The police are doing their job in playing their part. In "**My Life**", I have been given a beautiful opportunity to reflect over what I have done, time to challenge trials and conquer them. I am able to play the part of the hero or to shrink to my past performances as the villain that fails to overcome "**The Self**."*

*Gaining victory over how one deal's with one's emotions, feelings and reality shows forth maturity in becoming Christ like. There are two realities that are present: Yah's and self's. Yet there is only one reality that counts in life written into the millennium script, its title: "**The Plan of Salvation**."*

*So about my trials, are they bearable or uncontrollable? Have I been given too much to handle or am I just handling them poorly? Am I responsible for my actions or can I claim insanity... "every one's against me?" And when others don't accept your **rationalization**...well aren't they just self adsorbed! **Actions** truly say a lot about a person's real intent. **They reveal the real you!!!!***

Gal 5: 13~26 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; **Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.** But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the **lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have **crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Note the scripture admonishing us: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that we should not obey its lusts for more. Neither we are to yield our members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin" which means we are not to listen to the voice of temptation; we must shut it out." Overcoming temptation is accomplished by Walking in the Spirit, denying the lust of the flesh. For the self, the inner Me, Myself and I, fights against His Holy Spirit contrary to His will so that we don't do the things we should. The battle is raging in our heads, for that's where the fight is, between our ears...for the control of self.

One loses to temptation because one is siding with Me, Myself and I. We don't give ourselves wholly over to being lead by the Spirit of Yah. We refuse to surrender ownership, thus abandoning the call to become the new person. We still crave the something this world has to offer, whether money, sex, honor, or our control over situations and surroundings.

*What did Eve want? And what about Adam, the people of Noah's time, David and Bathsheba, Saul, Lot's wife, Samson and Job, what did they want? They all wanted the carnal desires of this world that coexisted **within them**, the desire to have it...**their own way.** Their dealings are seen acting as **servants of self**, desiring the ability to be their own god, serving their own selfish requests. Yah did not record their failures to make fun of them, but to show us behaviors we should not do.*

*The flesh, the inner me lusts against the Spirit of Yah, in the same manner as Satan strives to be god. The utmost gift of Grace is given to us **IF** we overcome **ourselves** by the power of His Holy Spirit which gives...**life.** The Spirit is of Yah as is our flesh in which we presumptuously claim ownership. But with ownership comes **responsibility**, accountability of individual dealings: our actions or lack thereof, whether originating in the inner or the outer self.*

Running away from responsibility doesn't really help; it always catches up with us. At the moment it feels better, but at some point consequences return showing their ugly heads demanding correction. To alleviate the problem, one must first acknowledge what the problem is then declare ownership and responsibility for it and then proceed to rectify it.

Gen 4:3~7 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, **sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.**

Sin is right there, just waiting for you to bite. The lure is shiny, but the cost is not revealed until it's too late. We are the one responsible for our desires that lie within. Control it, get rid of it or it will control you.

Our calling is not a matter of probability, it is a precious endowment bestowed upon a select few. It is not something to be handled unconscientiously. Yah opens our hearts to accept His Holy Spirit, but will not stay where He is not appreciated. The calling is a matter of choice; it is a bequest to be achieved.

*Nowhere does it say you get a second chance.
Yet there are three which promote that lie...**Me, Myself and I.***

It's time to stand up to them...they are no bigger than you.

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