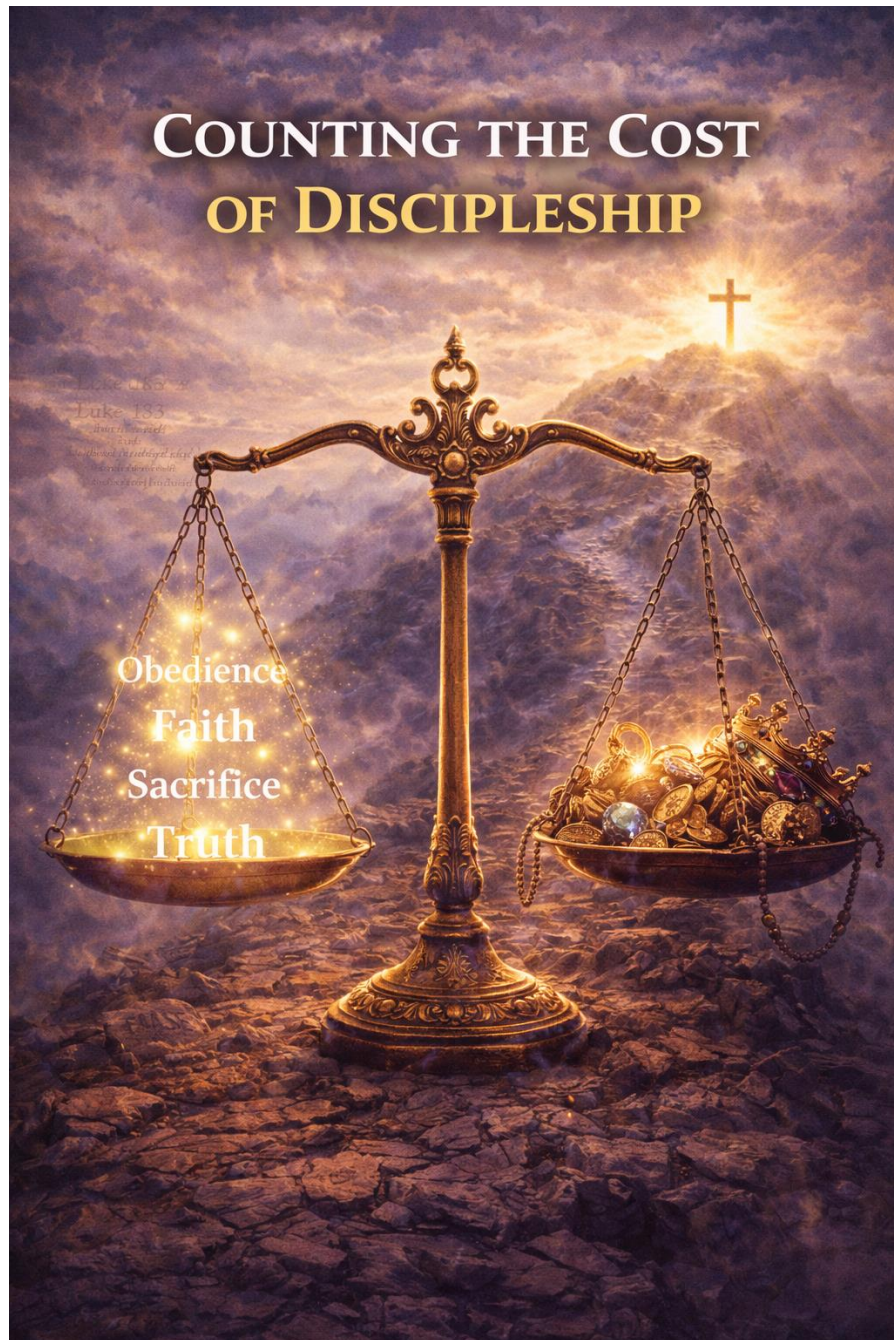




BOOK 03 – CHAPTER 03 – STUDY 01
Counting the Cost of Discipleship

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Discipleship = Commitment

Many people are attracted to “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) and His teachings, and great multitudes often become believers and even disciples of Him. Very few people even think about considering what it takes or how much we need to be committed to become a genuine disciple of Christ. Yet one of the most crucial points in the bible to even become a follower of Christ is the challenge to examine the depth of our commitment.

Matthew 16:24-27 (KJV) Then said “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) unto His disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. **25** For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. **26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? **27** For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

YHWH gives us two examples of how or what we need to consider before committing to Him as disciples of His only begotten Son “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach).

Luke 14:26-27 (KJV) If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. **27** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

The word hate used means to love less.

Greek Word: μισέω

Transliteration: miseō

Strong's Definition: to detest (especially to persecute); **by extension to love less.**

The love that is within us must be strong to the Lord. Our loyalty and devotion to “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) must supersede our love for anyone else. Unless you love everyone else less, to the point of being totally

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misunderstood, or even being criticized and prosecuted by your own family, you cannot be a true follower of “Christ” (יהושוע) Jehoshua Hamashiach).

What are the things in your life that you’re holding onto?

What are the areas you’re struggling to release right now?

Are there habits or behaviors you keep telling yourself you could stop anytime—but still haven’t?

Have these things started to take a deeper hold on you? Could they even be forming into addictions?

As followers of Christ, we must have very light roots because we must be available to do what He says, when He says it, where He says it at any moment or whatever His choice may be. **Luke 14:27 (KJV)** And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

To live the Christ like life nowhere implies that is simple or is easy or that all of our Christian friends and family will agree with us.

Taking up the cross means that we choose death to the self-live. Meaning that we have chosen death to the flesh. It does not mean that we will never participate in it. It means that the way of living as a lifestyle that we have chosen is death to our old ways.

When it comes to the things that are sinful in the eyes of YHWH, those are the things we should never participate or look back. We should not have to even have to mention those things, because we should not have done them. **Eph 5:3 (KJV)** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

The church today is working to get acceptance by the world. YHWH delivered us from acceptance by the world. The worst thing that can happen to the church in America is for unbelievers to stop persecuting and accept us. We don’t want to be accepted by them; we want them to accept our Lord and Saviour.

In the same way, we are not to conform to this world, nor keep company and be part with anything or anyone that goes against YHWH. Whether they like us, complement us, and say the truth of us or not, we should not be partakers of any of that which represents evil. **Acts 16:16-18 (KJV)** And it came to pass, as

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we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17** The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18** And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) **Christ** to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Just like we are not to even give the appearance to be evil minded by participating in events or traditions that are not Godly. For example, preaching or giving out Christian tracks on Halloween night dressed as Apostles or any other costumes. **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (KJV)** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. **Abstain from all appearance of evil.** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray YHWH your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) **Christ**.

Or just like going to a “pride” parade to preach and tell those involved that they need to stop and change their ways. **Psalms 1:1 (KJV)** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, **nor standeth in the way of sinners,** nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Ephesians 5:3-7 (KJV) But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **4** Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **6** Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. **7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**

YHWH used two examples on the way to contemplate our decision. First, we have the parable of someone starting an expensive and time-consuming building project. He noted that no one should begin such an endeavor without first determining that he can follow through on that

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commitment to the end. **Luke 14:28-30 (KJV)** For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? **29** Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, **30** Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

In the second example He likened our commitment to a decision to go to war to initiate a long, drawn-out struggle in which we will face repeated hardship, setbacks, and defeats. Are we willing to remain committed to that struggle to the end, regardless of the personal sacrifice it might take?

Luke 14:31-35 (KJV) Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? **32** Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. **33** So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. **34** Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? **35** It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.** **34** Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? **35** It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out.

There must come a time in our live that we say, YHWH it is all yours. You do with it what you choose. The question is not how much we have, but how much of us does He have.

The only way to show YHWH that we are completely His, is to truly step across the line and be willing to give Him all of us, including all our treasures.

We must learn to live with but above and detach ourselves from any and all superficial and material stuff. That is what it means to be free. This does not mean to give it all up or get rid of it. It simply means to have no attachment whatsoever with anything. It plainly means that we can detach from it at any given moment without hesitation.

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As I said in the beginning, “Many people are attracted to Christ and His teachings, and great multitudes often become believers and even disciples of Him”. But there is a serious problem with just being a “believer” and this is due to the biggest lie that teaches that a “believer” is a saved person.

As we have learned and verified previously in **B2-C01-S10-“Believing Nearer to Salvation, Not Saved”**, believing only gets us closer to salvation. And this just means that if we are not fully committed to learning the truth and doing what YHWH asks us to do, then we will just lose our way and eventually leave the faith.

But even as disciples, we have to be fully committed, or else we are just wasting our time! Just like “Demas” one of the disciples that was walking with Paul ended up leaving the faith, because he loved this world more. **2 Tim 4:10 (KJV)** For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

YHWH does not require for everyone to give up everything that they have to follow “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach). But if He did, how many of us are willing to do it?

So very often we must ask YHWH, at this point of my life is there anything of which that I am attached to? Is there anything that has attachments to me?

If He came to you and said, “you abandon it all and come to follow me”, would you, do it?

What a foolish and selfish mistake it is to hold on to our attachments and give up following Christ.

Anything that we have not given up to Him, anything that we are not ready to give up, anything that He does not have ready access to, is cheating us out of YHWHs best in our life.

So, think about it, what are you willing to give up for “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach)? Are you willing to abandon all your attachments; are you willing to lay down your life for His sake? That is exactly what it takes to be a true disciple of Christ.

A man cannot be attached to both. Is there anything you OWN?

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There is a big difference between, I own this, I earned it, it is mine, than It belongs to YHWH, He has given it to me, or allowed me to have it and He can have it back whenever He wants.

Because whatever you own, owns you and you are not free. Man cannot serve things and Christ.

Man cannot be attached to things and Christ.

Man has to be attached to one or the other.

The same goes with relationships, we can have no attachments to things or people that are not of YHWH.

Again, what are you attached to?

We have to be somewhat attached to our husbands, wives, sons, and daughters, because these are divine appointments that YHWH has given us. These are love and partnership relationships. And even then, there may be a time that we may have to let go of them. If they become ungodly or a hindrance in our walk with Christ, then we have to let them go.

When we talk about having let go, we are talking about relationships that have a pull or a tug, and relationships that we are attached to and own us.

Who is it that you have an attachment upon that you are not willing to give up?

Are you living in it?

Are you trying to be it?

Are you wearing it?

Are you having a relationship with it?

Do you own it or does it own you?

The disciple's life is one of liberty and not just on the rejoice of the Lord but liberated for the attachments of life.

John 6:53 (KJV) Then “Christ” (יהושוע) Jehoshua Hamashiach) said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. **54** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. **55** For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. **56** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. **57** As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall

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live by me. **58** This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. **59** These things said He in the synagogue, as He taught in Capernaum. **60** Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

61 When “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) **knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, He said unto them, Doth this offend you?**

62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where He was before?

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him.

65 And He said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

66 **From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.**

67 Then said “Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. **69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that

“Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), the Son of the living God. **70**

“Christ” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? **71** He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

“Our commitment,” said Christ, must be total! Or else we are just wasting our time!

Another example: Over 3 years later when Paul was preaching, three of the disciples chose to leave the faith, because they loved the world more.

1 Timothy 4:9 (KJV) Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: **10** **For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,** and is departed unto Thessalonica; **Crescens** to Galatia, **Titus** unto Dalmatia. **11** Only Luke is

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with me. Take Mark and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

Luke 14:33 (KJV) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

The commitment YHWH expects from us is indeed great. But the reward is even greater.

Disciples are all in, or they're not in. That's what the text is saying.

How do you count the cost when you don't know what's coming in your life?" The answer is that Christ requires, upfront, a commitment to the highest possible cost. And nothing later is going to surprise you then because you've already totally committed to the highest, most excessive commitment. In other words, you don't need to know the specifics of the cost in your own particular case if the agreement you sign is "I'm yours at any cost." And it's exactly what these verses say, isn't it?

Luke 14:33 (KJV) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Now, there are two principles in that sentence. One is found in the phrase **whosoever**. This applies to every disciple, not just a select few: "Any one of you whosoever does not renounce all he has." That's the first principle. The other principle is found in the word **"all"**. You must forsake all that you have to be my disciple. Your resources may stay in your control as a manager, and guardian, but you must be ready at any time to let go of everything for Christ's sake.

In other words, there's no negotiating here with Christ. There's no calculating. There is no saying, "Well, if the cost reaches this, then I'm not interested in Christ anymore." Because He says, "You can't sign up that way; nobody signs up for seventy percent of what I require." That's not what disciples say. We don't talk like that. Hypocrites are the ones that talk like that.

"Christ" (יהושוע) Jehoshua Hamashiach) says that there is no cost that you can pay in following Him that won't be made up and multiplied to you in the

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resurrection.” **Matthew 13:44 (KJV)** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field, A man sees and sells everything he has — everything he has! — to get that treasure. In other words, all the so-called costs and all the so-called losses — everything — are nothing compared to the gains of having Christ and being in the kingdom of YHWH for eternity with Him. Is there any greater treasure?

So yes, we must count the cost in order to be a disciple. The cost is total in principle and may be total in actual experience. In the end, being a disciple of Christ means gain, like Paul says: “**Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of “Christ”** (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) **Christ my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,”** (**Philippians 3:8 KJV**).

And then, we have the promise of YHWH's help: “**I will never leave you nor forsake you**” (**Hebrews 13:5 KJV**).

Paul reminds us that “**He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of “Christ”** (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach) **Christ”** (**Philippians 1:6 KJV**).

In spite of the hardships he faced, Paul remained focused on “**the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**” (**2 Timothy 4:8 KJV**).

Paul knew and reckoned that “**the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**” (**Romans 8:18 KJV**).

YHWH offers us a future so glorious that the challenges and trials we face in pursuit of it are miniscule in comparison.

As **Hebrews 2:1-3 (KJV)** tells us, “**We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.** For if

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the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; **How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation**; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;"

Freedom is the greatest treasure in life. When you can live free, liberated and when you are not attached, but you are walking in the liberty of “**Christ**” (יהושוע Jehoshua Hamashiach), then it doesn’t make any difference. So, you see, when YHWH says, “whosoever of you does not forsake (abandon) all that he has cannot be My disciple” He meant exactly what He said. He does not require for everyone to give up everything that they have to follow Christ. But if He did, how many of you are willing to do it?

So very often we must ask our heavenly Father, “at this point of my live is there anything of which that I am attached to or Is there anything that has attachments to me?”

I ask again, If He came to you and said, “leave everything behind and come to follow me”. What would you do? Will you hesitate and walk away from Him? **All Disciples of Christ are given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven!**

Matthew 13:10-16 (KJV) And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? **11** He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. **12** For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. **13** Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. **14** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

The only way to receive this knowledge is through complete **obedience** to HWHW. And one of the most important commandments to us as disciples is **2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)** Study to shew thyself approved unto YHWH, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

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And why do we study and verify everything? Because we do not want to learn from and follow someone who is not a true disciple of Christ!

Matthew 13:15-16 (KJV) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. **16** But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (KJV) For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. **14** And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **15** Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

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ACCOUNTABILITY between disciples.

In a biblical perspective, accountability is not only about personal responsibility and correction, but it also involves encouraging one another to develop and use the positive, God-given gifts for the benefit of others and the glory of YHWH. It's a complete concept that calls disciples to hold each other accountable, not just for avoiding sin, but also for growing in the use of the talents and abilities that our creator has entrusted to each person. In other words, it's a central aspect of living out the life of a disciple, by encouraging each other towards holiness, righteousness, and spiritual maturity.

Biblical accountability is also a brotherly practice that encourages disciples to take responsibility for their actions and spiritual growth, while supporting and correcting one another in love and action.

This involves not only correcting each other in sin but also encouraging one another to discover, nurture, and use these gifts in the service to others.

Through Scripture, we see that accountability is what helps disciples grow in holiness, spiritual maturity, and the proper use of their God-given gifts and abilities for the building up of Gods' Church, all for the glory of God.

1. Personal Accountability to our Heavenly Father.

Every disciple is ultimately accountable to YHWH for their actions and the use of their gifts. Scripture teaches that we will give an account to Him for how we live after our baptism, whether good or bad, and also for how we have used the gifts, talents and resources He has given us.

Romans 14:12 (KJV) And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which *he had* being yet uncircumcised.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

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Matthew 12:36-37 (KJV) But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. **37** For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

2. Mutual Accountability within the Children of YHWH.

In the body of Christ, believers are called to hold one another accountable, not only for avoiding sin but also for encouraging the development of the gifts and talents that YHWH has bestowed upon them.

The gospel shows how mutual accountability can restore those caught in sin but also encourage positive growth in gifts. We are called to hold one another accountable, helping each other live in accordance with God's will.

Galatians 6:1-2 (KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

This passage emphasizes the balance between correction and nurturing, helping one another grow in faith and positive expression of the gifts God has given.

James 5:16 (KJV) Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. This shows the importance of confessing sins to one another as part of accountability, seeking healing and restoration within the community.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (KJV) Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. This reminds us to encourage each other in the development of our God-given gifts, ensuring that everyone plays their part in the body of Christ and grows spiritually and in their gifts.

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3. Correction and Restoration within each other.

2 Tim 2:16-17 (KJV) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **instruction in righteousness**: **17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**

Biblical accountability includes **correction and restoration**, but also encouragement to use one's gifts for the glory of YHWH. The goal is always to build each other up, not just in moral living, but in the expression and development of each person's spiritual gifts.

Proverbs 12:1 (KJV) Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish. This verse emphasizes the importance of receiving correction and instruction.

Proverbs 3:11 (KJV) My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: This verse encourages not despising the Lord's discipline:

Matthew 18:15-17 (KJV) Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. **16** But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. **17** And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. Guides us on how to handle sin within the community:

1 Peter 4:10 (KJV) As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Accountability also means encouraging one another to recognize, develop, and use their spiritual gifts for the common good. The process emphasizes **restoration**, not punishment, and always aims to bring the person back into right relationship with God and the community.

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Galatians 6:1 (KJV) Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. This verse also echoes this idea, urging gentleness and caution when correcting others.

4. Spiritual Leaders' Role in Accountability.

Leaders have the responsibility to guide the flock not only in moral living but also in recognizing and cultivating their spiritual gifts.

Hebrews 13:17 (KJV) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. This verse highlights the accountability of leaders to God for their role in guiding others, which includes fostering the growth of talents and gifts.

1 Peter 5:2-3 (KJV) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **3** Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. Leaders are called to lead by example, shepherding others with humility and care, knowing that they too will give an account for their leadership.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Leaders are called to equip believers for service, helping them use their unique gifts in the work of the ministry and to build up the body of Christ.

5. Self-Examination and Accountability.

Christians are encouraged to **examine their own hearts and lives** regularly, holding themselves accountable to God's standards. Not just for repentance but also for identifying and growing in the positive gifts God has given.

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1 Corinthians 11:28 (KJV) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. urges self-examination, especially before taking communion:

This practice is not only about personal reflection but also about being responsible before God for one's actions, ensuring that believers approach Him in humility and repentance. Self-reflection should include evaluating how we are using the gifts God has entrusted to us and whether we are using them to serve others and glorify YHWH.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV) Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? This call to self-examine reflects a healthy, ongoing process of accountability where disciples regularly assess their relationship with YHWH. This is not just a test of faith but also of how we are using our gifts and abilities in the service of Christ and His kingdom.

6. The Goal of Accountability: Growth, Holiness, and the Use of Gifts.

Ultimately, the goal of accountability is **growth in holiness** and **spiritual maturity**, but also the development and proper use of the unique gifts YHWH has entrusted to each believer.

Proverbs 27:17 (KJV) Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. Accountability in community strengthens and refines believers, helping them to grow more like Christ. This is true not only for helping one another avoid sin but also for encouraging the development of all gifts and abilities.

Ephesians 4:15-16 (KJV) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Accountability helps disciples grow together in unity and maturity, not only in

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righteousness but in the use of their gifts, so that the body of Christ is built up and strengthened.

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