

### **Be Accountable – Verse 8**

The greater the position, the greater the accountability to God and man.

The good leader takes personal accountability seriously.

Galatians 6:4-5 - <sup>4</sup> But each one must carefully scrutinize his own work [examining his actions, attitudes, and behavior], and then he can have the personal satisfaction and inner joy of doing something commendable without comparing himself to another. <sup>5</sup> For every person will have to bear [with patience] his own burden [of faults and shortcomings for which he alone is responsible]. (AMP)

The more we hold ourselves accountable, allowing the piercing gaze of the Holy Spirit to help us, the less God will need men to correct us.

The truth is we like being lifted up or praised when compared to others, but we do not like being compared to God and His Word.

We seek to compare ourselves to the chief of sinners, not the One who died for sinners.

Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. - Bonhoeffer

Proverbs 3:11-12 - <sup>11</sup> My son, do not reject *or* take lightly the discipline of the Lord [learn from your mistakes and the testing that comes from His correction through discipline]; Nor despise His rebuke, <sup>12</sup> For those whom the Lord loves He corrects, even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights. (AMP)

### **Be Led by the Holy Spirit – Verse 10**

Acts 20:22-24 - <sup>22</sup> And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. <sup>24</sup> But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

The Holy Spirit does not lead us with our comfort in mind, but rather with our fruitfulness and holiness in mind.

Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons. – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must allow the Holy Spirit the right, which is eternally His, to disrupt our plans and even our very lives.

We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God, who will thwart our plans and frustrate our ways time and again, even daily, by sending people across our path with their demands and requests. We can, then, pass them by, preoccupied with our important daily tasks, just as the priest-perhaps reading the Bible-passed by the man who had fallen among robbers. When we do that, we pass by the visible sign of the Cross raised in our lives to show us that God's way, and not our own, is what counts – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Romans 8:14 - <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Matthew 4:1 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

“God never uses anyone greatly until He tests them deeply.” – A.W. Tozer

Why do we think God does not test us?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - <sup>9</sup> “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? <sup>10</sup> I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

### **Be Reverent – Verse 12**

Ecclesiastes 5:1-3 - Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil. <sup>2</sup> Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God *is* in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore, let your words be few.

Keep a proper perspective of God and yourself.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - <sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

God doesn't seek for golden vessels, and does not ask for silver ones, but He must have clean ones. – D.L. Moody

### **Be Selfless – Verse 12 (Be Giving – Verse 11)**

“Promoting self under the guise of promoting Christ is currently so common as to excite little notice.” – A.W. Tozer

Acts 20:18-21 - <sup>18</sup> And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is simply saying, “I gave you all I had; I gave you myself”.

A strong marriage is a selfless marriage.

Acts 20:33-34 - <sup>33</sup> I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me.

There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things. – D.L. Moody

Only the selfless servant brings glory to the Master.

### **Be Life Giving – Verse 12**

2 Timothy 3:10 - <sup>10</sup> But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 - <sup>14</sup> But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. <sup>15</sup> You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

To give life, you must be involved in a life, therefore, to be life giving you must also be time giving.

To be life giving, you and I must speak with the mouth of love and serve from the heart of the servant.

### **Be Fruitful – Verse 12**

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 - <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me.

Fruitfulness is not haphazard but thoughtfully planned out.

Fruitfulness and laziness cannot coexist.

John 15:8 - <sup>8</sup> By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

“God grant that I may never live to be useless!” – John Wesley

“We do not wish to enter Heaven until our work is done, for it would make us uneasy if there were one single soul left to be saved by our means.” – Spurgeon

Ending Prayer:

Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen. – John Wesley

Jude 1:8-12 - <sup>8</sup> In the same way, these people—who claim authority from their dreams—live immoral lives, defy authority, and scoff at supernatural beings.

<sup>9</sup> But even Michael, one of the mightiest of the angels, did not dare accuse the devil of blasphemy, but simply said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (This took place when Michael was arguing with the devil about Moses’ body.)

<sup>10</sup> But these people scoff at things they do not understand. Like unthinking animals, they do whatever their instincts tell them, and so they bring about their own destruction.

<sup>11</sup> What sorrow awaits them! For they follow in the footsteps of Cain, who killed his brother. Like Balaam, they deceive people for money. And like Korah, they perish in their rebellion.

<sup>12</sup> When these people eat with you in your fellowship meals commemorating the Lord’s love, they are like dangerous reefs that can shipwreck you. They are like shameless shepherds who care only for themselves. They are like clouds blowing over the land without giving any rain. They are like trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots.