



# Life Principles Notes

Practical Lessons for Understanding the Word of God

## A CALL TO ACCOUNTABILITY

**KEY PASSAGE:** Matthew 25:14-30 | **SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:8-19 | 1 Samuel 13:8-14 | 2 Samuel 12:1-14  
Matthew 16:16-18, 21-23 | Romans 14:10-12 | Galatians 5:1, 13

### SUMMARY:

#### Everyone loves freedom.

I am grateful for the privilege of living in a country that values and protects our liberties. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees us freedom of religion, speech, and peaceful assembly to protest government decisions. But, with freedom comes responsibility. You and I aren't allowed to do whatever we want. We must fulfill our duties as citizens and follow the laws of this land.

The same is true regarding spiritual liberty. Galatians 5:13 says, "You were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another." One day, we will all stand before the Lord and give an account of the way we lived our lives (Rom. 14:10-12). How can you and I prepare for that day? By being accountable to the Lord and our fellow believers.

### SCRIPTURAL PRINCIPLES:

#### Accountability is a biblical principle.

Jesus illustrated the importance of accountability through the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). Each servant was given a sum of money—according to his ability to manage it. Two of the men invested their portion wisely and doubled their resources. The third was afraid of his master, and buried his money. When the master returned, he praised the two servants for their intelligent

stewardship and rebuked the one who hid his talents in fear. Although this story focuses on money, its principles apply to how we use our skills, spiritual gifts, time, or anything else that God has entrusted to us. Believers who invest their lives wisely will receive the Lord's blessing on the day of judgment. Christians who are sinful or lazy will lose their rewards. Accountability can help us avoid this consequence.

- **God and Adam:** When the first man and woman rebelled by eating the forbidden fruit, the Lord called Adam to account and explained their punishment (Gen. 3:8-19).
- **Samuel and Saul:** The king initiated a sacrifice instead of waiting for the prophet to arrive. This rebellion cost Saul his kingdom (1 Sam 13:8-14).
- **Nathan and David:** Nathan called David to account for the murder of Uriah and adultery with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:1-14).
- **Jesus and Peter:** Christ rebuked the disciple for allowing Satan to influence his thinking (Matt. 16: 21-23).

#### What are the benefits of accountability?

- **Motivation:** When my grandson knew that I was praying for him during ROTC tryouts, he performed far better than he expected.
- **Promotion:** Often, people are promoted not because they are the most talented but because they are trustworthy, reliable, and cooperative.
- **Good business practice:** A company without accountability will have problems. None of us would want to use bridges or buildings

constructed by workers who were not held accountable for a job well done.

■ **Individual challenge:** In the parable of the talents, the three men received different amounts of money based on their ability. God doesn't judge us in comparison to anyone else.

■ **Stronger relationships:** Close friendships develop because of accountability. Ask someone to help you spot things in your life that are inconsistent with the Word of God. Request the privilege of doing the same for him or her.

■ **Protection:** The Devil is constantly working to separate believers from fellowship with each other and with God. If we refuse to be accountable to others, we are in dangerous territory.

### Why do people resist accountability?

■ **Dishonesty:** When people are deceitful, others suffer too. A lack of integrity in a few individuals can result in rules that hinder the freedom of all.

■ **Rebellion:** Some people don't want to submit to the Lord. They may attend church but rebel by making excuses for their drinking, smoking, and filthy language.

■ **Slothfulness:** Calling in "sick" when you don't feel like working hurts your Christian testimony. So does arriving 30 minutes late and then slipping out before the end of the work day.

■ **Fear of loss:** Many people feel that being honest will result in missing out on privileges and opportunities. Ironically, the more truthful you are, the more others are likely to trust you with responsibility.

■ **Untrustworthiness:** Those who gossip make terrible accountability partners. They take what you tell them in confidence and use it to destroy your reputation.

■ **Pride:** Some refuse to humble themselves to anyone—including God. Be sure to begin your day by requesting the Father's guidance. Every night, ask Him how you did. Your goal should be to hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21, NKJV).

### What happens without accountability?

■ **Poor performance:** Knowing that someone will ask how we did helps motivate us to achieve.

■ **Waste:** Those who don't keep an account of their money usually squander what they have on unnecessary purchases.

■ **Hindered spiritual growth:** Everyone needs another person to whom he or she can be held accountable.

■ **Division:** To function well, team members must work in unity. All must do their part. This holds true in sports as well as in ministries, churches, and businesses.

■ **Missed privileges:** People who refuse to be accountable are generally not promoted or rewarded with bonuses, extra days off, and other perks.

■ **Misused resources:** Without accountability, government officials spend our tax dollars without regard for what we, their constituents, want. And Christian colleges get away with employing liberal professors who are atheists and teach that the Bible is not the Word of God. We have a responsibility to hold people accountable for wasting resources we have entrusted to them.

### CONCLUSION:

No one—regardless of their spiritual maturity or position in the church—is exempt from the need for accountability.

If you haven't been responsible to someone else for your spiritual life, now is the time to start. Find a friend with whom you can be transparent. Cultivate a relationship of genuine accountability with that person. The Lord will bless your obedience in more ways than you can imagine. ✨



To purchase the message for these Life Principles Notes on CD or DVD, please visit [www.intouchbookstore.org](http://www.intouchbookstore.org).