

Stir Up Your Accountability

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 17:7-10 (NKJV)
7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit. 9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10 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.

Introduction

Today’s message is going to be on Stir Up Your Accountability. Last week’s message was Stir Up Your Testimony (your witness). Your witness/testimony is what you testify about Christ. Your accountability helps ensure that your life remains consistent with that testimony.

The Mirror Image

Question: What’s one of the important things WE use to get ready but also the very thing we don’t want OTHERS to use for us?
Answer: A mirror

When I use the mirror, I use it to present myself the way I WANT to be seen.
When you use the mirror for me, it reveals how I actually appear when you see me
IF/WHEN the two images don’t align, I am unsatisfied with what you’re showing me because I saw myself differently
Something must be wrong with your mirror OR something must be wrong with my mirror

Do you have a better image of yourself than others have of you?
Do others have a better image of you than you do of yourself?

When presenting yourself in public spaces, your attendance is there but did the real you show up?
Did version 1 show up or did version 2 show up?

There are at least 2 versions of us:
The side that knows you're watching
The side that thinks you're not watching

God has the clear view of each version of us and we can't fool Him.

Look at our Scripture Text:
Jeremiah 17:9 seems to turn on a dime from the beautiful imagery that flowed from verses 7 and 8 and begins to warn us about the danger of trusting our own heart: that part of us where our emotions, thoughts, intellect, intuitions and personality lie.
He warns us not to embrace he common ideologies of our time:
"trust your heart;"
"your heart will never lead you astray;"
"the heart never lies."
It's possible to be in complete agreement with what your heart is saying and still be in disagreement with the realities of your life and also in disagreement with what God is saying for your life.
There are too many instances where a person trusted their heart only to feel deceived by their own feelings and thoughts and they feel manipulated by others in the process.
The end result is a mistrust of oneself, a mistrust of others and a hesitance to trust God

The Word of God is He's telling you to trust Him and let Him tell you about yourself. Let Him reveal some things to you about you. And when you see it, believe it.
We often say when a person shows you who they really are—believe them.
What about when the Holy Spirit shows you who YOU really are? Would you believe Him?

Jeremiah 17:10 says **10 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.

Accountability in the Body of Christ

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV) 17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.
Have you ever gone through a period of trauma where you lost confidence in beliefs you once held?
And now you've built a wall of resistance and rejection against the things that once were a blessing to you?
It was real until pain made you believe it was all a lie
And no one can tell you differently
This is where your own blade will eventually become dull and unable to cut through anything because you have no one to challenge your assumptions. You have no one to tell you you're wrong. You have no one to ask and interrogate your deeply held convictions.
Your instincts used to be sharp, but now they're not serving you as well.
You need someone to help sharpen you.
Believers are called to support, encourage, and gently correct one another so they do not fall into sin or

isolation.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Accountability is not condemnation. It is protection and preservation.
The person you are accountable to is there to help you live in consistency with the testimony you carry
And if and when you fall into sin, you have a circle that can help to restore you [GENTLY]
The energy of "I told you so" doesn't bring the accountability that is lasting. It doesn't build trust or show that you're here to help
Let the one saying "I told you so" also confess their own faults.
James 5:16 (NKJV) 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Accountability to God

Hebrews 4:12-16 (NKJV)
12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
Our Compassionate High Priest
14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of God does not discriminate. It speaks and judges fairly. It sees through every illusion. It shines light on the darkest of places. It is sharper than iron and cuts through thought and feeling itself. It divides the expressions of our spirit and our soul.

As we were in the beginning, created and naked—this is how God still sees us. Though clothed in His righteousness, He still sees what He's covering for us. And while He covers it for us, He requires that we give an account to Him for the things He's covered for us.

He says "you may not want to talk to them about this—but you're going to have to talk to me about it!"

Closing

Accountability - When We Run from It
When we must reveal who we really are
When we must tell the uncomfortable truth
When we must subject ourselves to the review of others
When we must be willing to change

When we must admit that change needs an audit
When we fear yielding control

Accountability - When We Run to It

When we feel unsafe
When we don't want the buck to stop here
When we realize that are too vulnerable to failure
When responsibility gets too heavy
When we realize that we are not enough
When we want/need to be associated with something/someone greater than what/who you are

Don't run from accountability — walk towards it. It's there to serve you and not condemn you.