

The emergency siren shrilled in our ears, followed by 10 minutes of chaos as we hurriedly escorted patients out to the assembly point. The security officer and I proceeded back into the building to check if everyone had been evacuated safely. The all clear was announced and so too was the successful completion of our quarterly fire drill. Yes, I'm sure like our patients, your now stimulated adrenal glands are not impressed.

But, as I sat completing the last word of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) I developed following our mock drill, I found myself asking this question: what's your spiritual QIP for your work life?

Pondering the question, I realised that, scripturally, it was sound. John clearly illustrates through the lives of Gaius and Diotrephes that living righteously can and should be assessed (3 John). This truth is supported by 1 Timothy 4:15, emphasising that our progress should be evident to all.

Gaius is trumpeted by John to be a man making spiritual progress. He's testified to be a man that's faithful to the truth and his faith is evident in the way he treats and loves others. His hospitality is known and applauded.

In contrast, we meet Diotrephes. He's introduced as a man that loves to be first. He's not welcoming to John and fellow believers. He's inhospitable to other believers, as well as a gossip. He even goes as far as discouraging other believers who desire to show hospitality.

Both these men were believers and both "stereotypes" are still found in the biggest evangelical arena, having polar opposite fruit.

In the work life arena, where ethical loneliness is very real, how do we address the obvious discrepancies found within ourselves and fellow believers at work? I want to suggest we do this by partnering with Holy Spirit and developing our spiritual QIP. Dough Sherman states, "We all need other believers to inspire us to moral excellence." 1 Timothy 4:16 sanctions this truth. Practically, what could a spiritual QIP look like?

Weakness/Sin	Spiritual target	Steps
Pride	Growing in humility	Pray and repent of known pride in your life. Pray for humility and grace to learn the lessons of humility.
		Serve others and walk out truth.
Gossip	Stop gossiping	Pray and repent of gossip.
		Ask God to help you stop.
		Pray for your own and your co-workers victory over sin in this area
Poor Punctuality	Punctuality	Pray and repent of time stolen from your institution and client's.
		Set your alarm and leave at a set time.
		Get fellow believers at work to hold you accountable.
Lack of hospitality	Hospitality	Pray and repent of selfishness.
		Ask God to help you be more hospitable and to show you areas where you might not be.
		Remember the small things. Being intentional and observant is key.

In conclusion, I'd like to suggest that the journey and process of sanctification is God's spiritual QIP for us. Sherman states that "we must be a leader for Christian thinking and influence among our co-workers." Dear friends, let's pray for the grace to carry one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2) along this journey of sanctification. May we form part of the great cloud of witnesses, cheering each other on to finish well! (Hebrews 12:1).