

ACCOUNTABILITY GUIDE FOR PASTORS & LEADERS

by Kris Langham

"And let us consider how we may **spur one another on** toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up **meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us **encourage one another**—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- *Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)*

"Therefore **confess your sins** to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- *James 5:16 (NIV)*

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another"

- *Proverbs 27:17*

A couple of you asked me for the list that I use for accountability with my buddy. I am sure there are lots of things you could do, but this one worked for me and my dear brother in California. For several years, we met together every week or two, and always walked away strengthened and encouraged. Here's how we did it:

STEP 1: PRAY TOGETHER - Open in heartfelt prayer.

STEP 2: WHAT'S GOD BEEN SPEAKING TO YOU?

Each man shares what he has been reading in the Word, and what God has spoken to him recently. If you are in a habit of journaling after reading, share a good journal entry. This also served as accountability that we are in the Word & prayer. **Encouragement** is a crucial element of this time. Every pastor needs a Barnabas. If all we did in our accountability session was confession, our time together could end up as another *discouragement*. We want to walk away sharpened and stronger in faith.

STEP 3: CONFESSION: Rather than just opening the floor, we use a list that my buddy found of the top twelve attacks on (or pitfalls of) Christian leaders - with a couple modifications of our own. We walk down the list one at a time and confess any sins, temptations and struggles. We try to resist telling stories at this time, unless it is important. We just confess and respond by encouraging each other to holiness. We save prayer until we're done unless we felt immediate prayer was called for. The list helps us confess little temptations before they become big sins. It also includes some things that aren't so much sin issues as they are just areas of balance. We try to be careful not to end up in long conversations, because we want to get through the list. Here's the list...

Pitfalls for Christian Leaders

- **Pride** (this covers a lot, so you may want to get specific)
- **Domestic neglect** (not keeping balance between family and ministry. Am I leading my family by serving at home? When was my last date with my wife? Do I talk to the kids? Family devotions, etc.)
- **Lack of trust in God** (worry, stress, forgetting that the yoke is His, etc.)
- **Sexual temptation:** internet / tv / movies / roaming eyes / roaming thoughts / girls or women seeking counsel (we also have rules in place at church to protect us in this area)
- **Problems with friends**
- **Problems with fellow laborers or coworkers** (this is not the place to hash it out, only to share the struggle or confess my bad attitude)
- **Judgmentalism / arrogance / lack of mercy**
- **Over-commitment**
- **Laziness: physical or mental**
- **Spiritual lethargy / apathy**
- **Cynicism / discouragement**
- **Greed / lack of contentment**
- **Over-sensitivity**
- **Vanity** (over-concern for appearance, reputation, etc.)
- **Not keeping my word** (late, not faithful to promises, etc.)

Other easy ways to do this confession without a printed list are:

- Review the 10 commandments, OR
- Review Satan's big three temptations: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, & pride of life (2nd John 2:16 - which also matches closely with the temptation of Eve and the temptation of Jesus).

Every sin issue can fit into those in one way or another. Those are great, but we just happen to use the list above. As long as it covers what you struggle with. I added a couple that were personal to me. You should do the same. Also, it might be good to put your biggest struggles at the top, so you don't run out of time before you get to key issues. Time is a key, so we agree to stay focused.

STEP 4: PRAY TOGETHER AGAIN - This time we each pray for direction, encouragement, supply, mercy, etc. for the other. We get specific.

I hope and pray that this guide is helpful for you and encourages you in your ministry and fellowship. Tweak it, use it and share it as you see fit. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments about it.

Always in the unfailing love of Christ,
- Kris Langham
ThroughTheWord.org