

Mark 10:43-44, NIV – “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.”

Luke 16:12, NASB – “And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?”

3. Your Level Of Personal Responsibility Toward Others Is Determined By Personal Talent, Not Position

a) Skill Determines Responsibility

1 Chronicles 15:22, NIV – “Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it.”

b) If You Have Been Given A Gift, You Are Responsible To Exercise That Gift

Luke 12:48, NIV - *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

c) You Are The Answer To One Of The Needs In This Church!

Ephesians 4:16, NIV – “From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

d) No One Can Keep You From Personal Success

Ephesians 5:15-16, NIV – “Be very careful, then, how you live -- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.”

- Learn to see every open door, as an opportunity to bless, an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to advance

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION

- To be successful and fulfill God's will for our lives, we must:
 1. Take personal responsibility for dealing with the negatives.
 2. Take personal responsibility for pursuing the positives.
 3. Take personal responsibility for using the gifts that God has given us.

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR LIFE

Part 1 – Make The Choice To Be Responsible

David Hibbert – July 25, 2004

THE PROBLEM

1. Presence Of Negative Obstacles
2. Absence Of Positive Progress

THE WRONG WAYS WE TEND TO DEAL WITH OUR PERSONAL PROBLEMS

1. Shame

- Withdraw from others, hide our negatives, deny them

Psalms 69:7, NIV – “For ... shame covers my face.”

2. Depression

- Stay home, watch TV, feel miserable, commiserate on how bad we are, hope that somehow God will zap us and make us better

Lamentations 3:19-20, NIV – “I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.”

- Obsessing on our failures will never move us to success

3. Anger

- Make a vow to God to be different, repent, pray, and fast, just believe God that somehow, He will zap us and make us better
- Resolutions by themselves never bring about positive outcome

James 2:14, NIV – “What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?”

4. Busyness

- Become busy to forget about our problems, or to make us feel like we are being productive, but leads to burn out

James 1:11, NIV – *“For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.”*

THE KEY TO LIFE CHANGE: TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

- You and you alone are personally responsible for your own actions and life
- And no actions by any other person, can result in any long term benefit to your own life

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. Personal Responsibility Is Required For Personal Failure

a) Take Responsibility For Your Sins

Matthew 27:4, NIV - *“I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”*

- How do we take responsibility?

2 Samuel 12:7,9,13, NIV - *Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ... You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ... Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin.*

- Admit them, confess them, be honest about them, and receive the Lord’s forgiveness and His healing touch

b) Take Responsibility For Your Mistakes

Luke 16:1-2, NIV – *Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’”*

- We must be willing to give an account, and suffer the consequences for our actions

Luke 16:5, NIV – *“So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’”*

- Make restitution for your mistakes

c) Take Responsibility For Your Weaknesses: Hurts, Habits and Hangups

1 Timothy 6:11-12, *“But you, man of God, flee [escape] from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

- a) Flee / escape – from the negatives with a strategic plan
- b) Pursue – the positive things that you desire in your life
- c) Fight – the negatives with great determination
- d) Take hold off – the positives that you desire, and hold on

2. Personal Responsibility Is Necessary For Personal Success

a) Taking Personal Responsibility For Success Minimizes Failures

Genesis 39:22-23, NIV – *So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.”*

- Success is a consequence of taking personal responsibility for our mistakes, and actively pursuing the blessing of others, and when we do so, God will bless us

b) Taking Personal Responsibility For Success Requires Faithfulness To Others

Luke 12:42, KJV - *And the Lord said, “Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household ...?”*