



## Attribute 2: Living in accountable relationships with believers

### ▶ Scripture References

#### **Proverbs 27:17**

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

#### **Hebrews 10:24-25**

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

#### **Galatians 6:1-2**

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

#### **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

After being somewhat fearful and skeptical, I have discovered the benefit of Living In Accountable Relationships With Believers. My apprehension stemmed from my misunderstanding about accountability. The picture I had was one of uninvited meddling. What I discovered was the power of granting permission to be asked how I'm doing with specific expressed goals. I experienced the freedom to examine, with others who love me, the progress I am making in growing in Christlikeness. It includes regular prayer support, observation, clarifying questions, feedback and encouraging words along the way. Here is why I think accountability is important:

- We can easily become self-deceived, thinking we can change a negative attitude or behavior that has become imbedded in our daily life.
- We may often be our own worst enemy, having blind spots and being extremely good at rationalizing our own beliefs and actions.
- All of us regularly face life issues that are much easier to process with other godly people alongside us. We can't do it alone, we weren't meant to.
- True accountability is the result of conferring to others the authority or permission to speak into our lives. It is never assumed. It must be granted.
- Accountability develops patience and perseverance because challenges are seldom resolved overnight.
- A wonderful by-product of Living In Accountable Relationships With Believers is peace of mind for our spouse.

I began by asking God to identify 2-3 like-minded believers of the same gender who could serve as my accountability partners. While this can, and often does, happen in one-to-one relationships I wanted to guarantee the input of multiple friends. We met every two weeks and established clear goals and ground rules, which included transparency, no judgment and confidentiality. We firmly committed to the guiding principle that God, as revealed in Jesus Christ and proclaimed in Scripture, is our ultimate authority.

These relationships have helped me overcome challenges in the present and given me hope for the future. As a result of these efforts and God's grace I am a more effective ambassador for Christ and I am finding increasing opportunities to share with others what has happened to me.

WHAT IDEA(S) DID THE HOLY SPIRIT HIGHLIGHT FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION?

**Read:** Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24-25, I Thessalonians 5:11, Galatians 6:1-2

WHICH VERSES DID THE HOLY SPIRIT HIGHLIGHT FOR FURTHER REFLECTION?

## Group Exploration

SHARE A SITUATION WHERE YOU ALLOWED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU RESOLVE A PERSONAL ISSUE YOU FACED? WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE COME ALONG SIDE YOU?

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM LIVING IN ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS? HOW COULD THEY BE OVERCOME?

WHAT ARE SOME CREATIVE WAYS YOU COULD ENVISION ANOTHER PERSON HELPING HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE TO CHANGING A CERTAIN ATTITUDE OR ACTION?

## **Personal Application**

WHAT WILL YOU DO STARTING TODAY TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF LIVING IN ACCOUNTABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH BELIEVERS?

WHAT HELP OR ENCOURAGEMENT DO YOU NEED TO GET THE PROCESS STARTED? WHERE WILL YOU GET THAT HELP?

# Ambassador Prayer Connection

Prayer Partner's Name	
Contact Info	
For the month of...	

	Partner Prayer Requests	Your Prayer Requests
Application of Attribute		
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