

I AM RESPONSIBLE

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Introduction:

One of the greatest marks of spiritual maturity is the willingness to stand before God and say, "I am responsible." It is easier to blame people, circumstances, background, pressure, leadership, family, or environment. But God does not call us first to explain ourselves; He calls us to examine ourselves. Responsibility is the doorway to repentance, growth, wisdom, obedience, restoration, and destiny.

From the beginning of human history, man has often tried to escape responsibility by shifting blame. Yet Scripture teaches us that every person must answer to God for his own choices.

1. Blame-Shifting Began in Eden

The first picture of human blame-shifting appears in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the Lord came asking questions—not because He lacked knowledge, but because He was drawing them into accountability.

Genesis 3:9-13 (KJV): *"And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and*

I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."

Adam blamed Eve, and indirectly blamed God by saying, *"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me."* Eve blamed the serpent. Yet God still dealt with each of them. Their excuses did not remove their responsibility. In the same way, we may explain what influenced us, but influence is not the same as innocence. Responsibility means admitting my part before God.

2. Saul: The Danger of Excuses

King Saul shows us how dangerous excuses can become. Saul was chosen and anointed, but when he failed to obey God, he repeatedly explained his disobedience by pointing to pressure, fear, timing, and the people around him.

1 Samuel 13:11-14 (KJV): *"And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and*

that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee."

1 Samuel 15:13-23 (KJV): "And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to

me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king".

Saul's words sounded reasonable. He had military pressure, impatient people, and religious intentions. But

Samuel called his action foolishness because the issue was not pressure; the issue was disobedience. Later, when Saul spared what God commanded him to destroy, he again shifted responsibility to the people. He said, *"the people took of the spoil."* But leadership cannot hide behind the crowd. A responsible person says, *"I obeyed"* or *"I failed."* Saul's excuses cost him his kingdom.

The lesson is clear: excuses may sound acceptable before men, but they do not cancel accountability before God. If we continue to justify disobedience, we may protect our pride but lose our place in God's purpose.

3. **David: Responsibility Opens the Door to Mercy**

David also sinned seriously. His failure was not small. Yet when Nathan confronted him, David's response was different from Saul's. He did not blame Bathsheba, Uriah, the pressure of kingship, loneliness, position, or circumstance. He accepted responsibility before God.

2 Samuel 12:13 (KJV): *"And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."*

David's confession was brief, but it was honest. *"I have sinned against the LORD."* Responsibility did not erase consequences, but it opened the door to mercy. God can forgive, cleanse, correct, and restore the person who stops hiding. A broken and honest heart is closer to restoration than a proud heart full of excuses. **Psalm 51:3** - *"For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."*

AREAS OF CHRISTIAN PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

I Am Responsible for My Salvation

Philippians 2:12 (KJV):

*"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**"*

Galatians 6:4-5 (KJV):

"But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden."

I Am Responsible for My Destiny (Success/Failures)

Galatians 6:7 (KJV):

*"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." - Cf: **2 Kings 4:1-7.***

I Am Responsible for My Family

1 Timothy 5:8 (KJV):

"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

The example of Eli:

Responsibility is not only personal; it is also relational. God holds us accountable for the influence, authority, and stewardship He has placed in our hands. Eli was a priest, a father, and a spiritual leader. Yet his sons were corrupt, and Eli failed to restrain them properly.

1 Samuel 2:12 (KJV): *"Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD."*

1 Samuel 3:13 (KJV): *"For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not."*

Eli knew what was happening. He spoke, but he did not act with the necessary firmness. God said He would judge Eli's house because "his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." This is a solemn warning to parents, leaders, pastors, supervisors, and anyone entrusted with influence. Responsibility requires more than awareness. It demands appropriate action. We must not ignore what God has placed under our care.

I Am Responsible for My Health and Safety

Responsibility also reaches into the practical areas of life. A spiritual person must not be careless with health, safety, decisions, habits, and risk. Wisdom is part of responsibility. Faith is not foolishness, and trusting God does not mean ignoring danger. God expects us to live with prudence, preparation, and care.

Proverbs 27:12 (KJV): *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."*

A responsible person foresees danger and takes wise steps. He avoids unnecessary risk, protects his body, cares for his household, and considers the safety of the people around him. The prudent person does not wait for destruction before responding; he acts early. Carelessness is not spirituality. Wisdom is obedience expressed in practical living.

Therefore, we must say, *"I am responsible for how I live, how I prepare, how I respond to danger, and how I protect the life God has given me."* Responsibility before God includes the way we steward our bodies, our homes, our work, and our daily choices.

Conclusion: Everyone Will Give Account

Romans 14:12 (KJV): "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

The conclusion of the matter is simple and solemn: each person must give account to God. We may be surrounded by influences, but we are still responsible for choices. We may have been wronged, pressured, disappointed, or misunderstood, but God still calls us to respond rightly. Let every hearer leave this message with a sincere confession: **"I am responsible."** I am responsible for repentance. I am responsible for obedience. I am responsible for my family. I am responsible for my leadership. I am responsible for my health and safety. I am responsible for my destiny before God. The responsible life is the life God can correct, restore, bless, and use.