



Session 12

Taking responsibility

Being empowered by God and your local church leaders to express all that God has put in you is a serious business. As we saw in the previous session, it requires us to make clear choices. Doing so is to **take responsibility** for our personal spiritual development and the way in which we demonstrate the Christian life to those we do life with.

Your spiritual progress and development is ultimately your responsibility. Never leave it to others, expecting the church to somehow grow you, open a door for you, or suddenly put the spotlight on you. Expect nothing, and when encouragement does come, it will be a blessing and a bonus. Simply take responsibility for your spiritual life, make great choices and remain in a place where you sense God's smile on all you do.

Paul said to some of the early followers of Christ:

*'I urge you who have been chosen by God to **live up to the life to which God called you.** Always be humble, gentle, and patient, accepting each other in love. You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way' (Ephesians 4:1-3 CEV).*

This is us taking appropriate responsibility for our fellow Christians and playing a responsible part in our corporate mission of reaching the lost and building a great church.

Let's get a bit more specific about the areas we need to take responsibility in:

1. **Take responsibility for your... Personal Devotions**

Your personal relationship with God is just that – personal! How you develop it is therefore entirely up to you. To maximise your growth and God's blessing in and through your life:

- ❑ Keep reading God's Word, the Bible.
- ❑ Pray constantly, talking with God as you live each day, inviting him into your everyday life, fully involving him with you in the process of life.
- ❑ Listen to the Holy Spirit as he responds, leads, guides and educates you.

Beware of letting your personal relationship with God drift, especially when you get busy in life. Be particularly mindful of this when you are busy doing God's work, serving in Church. Never let doing things *for* God (serving) replace time *with* God.

2. Take responsibility for your... Personal Integrity

Your life is your witness. Your aim is to *'live a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him'* (Colossians 1:10). You must be a living example of the abundant life of Christ because unbelievers are watching you and you can influence them positively for Christ more by your example than your words (1 Thessalonians 4:12, Colossians 4:5).

See: *Ephesians 4:17-5:16* which is a long passage mentioning many aspects of how to live as 'children of the light', that is, walk in biblical integrity.

Integrity is seen in the way you *speak* and do your *work*; in the way you handle your *money* and deal with life's *problems*; in your *attitudes* and basic *honesty*. Be faithful, loyal, fair and reasonable. Have clear standards and abide by them.

3. Take responsibility for your... Personal Relationships

Take responsibility for the proper outworking of your side of every relationship in life.

For example:

- Be a good friend
- Be a great husband or wife
- Be a good father/mother
- Be an excellent employer or employee

Get to know what the Bible teaches about each of these relationships and be determined – with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives inside you - to live that way.

Be your *brother's keeper*, encouraging and admonishing him/her if appropriate. As the scripture says:

'Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives' (Colossians 3:15-16 NLT).

This enriches our personal relationships and contributes towards protecting our corporate relationship as a church

4. Take responsibility for your... Personal Outreach

If the lost are to be reached with the wonderful life of Christ, every individual must play their part by living out the Christian life – being *naturally supernatural* – and by sharing their faith with others in a natural and positive way.

*'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, **as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers**' (Galatians 6:9-10).*

Conclusion:

Let's be a people who are responsible stewards of the great empowerment God has given us and play our part in advancing his purpose in our generation.

I hope this ***Discovery*** course has helped you get to grips with something of what it means to be a dedicated follower of Jesus Christ.

- Remain totally ***God Centred***
- Be ***purpose driven*** in all you do, and
- Responsibly outwork the new life, freedom and future you have been ***empowered*** with in Christ.