



Who's Holding Your Feet to the Fire?



“Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (NLT)

It should not have been a surprise to me but it was. When I began coaching people, it didn't take long for me to realize that several common issues cause a majority of people to fail to achieve the top priorities for their lives. One issue stands above them all. What do you think it is? No, not a lack of desire. Most people want more for their lives, to feel more fulfilled. As a matter of fact, it's typically not even a lack of knowing what to do. You may be thinking that it's the presence of too many life problems (money, relationship etc.) Nope, not this either. It's the lack of accountability.

As a financial advisor, I learned early on that many people lack discipline with money. The IRS learned this long before me. After years of trying to collect taxes each April, they finally addressed a chronic problem – people had already spent it! They implemented paycheck withholdings and required quarterly estimated payments to be sure to collect their due. Likewise, people have trouble saving. I concluded that “everyone can act disciplined once, just not each month.” The solution for the savings problem looks just like what the IRS did, automatic paycheck deductions to fund savings accounts. Everyone can do this...Brilliant!

How can “acting disciplined once” be applied to your top priority?

For a Christian, deepening your relationship with God should be your top priority. God is central to all other aspects of life, right? Why then do so many people spend such little time deepening this vital relationship? People have great difficulty maintaining a daily devotional time with God. Hands down, this is the #1 issue I encounter. Why? It goes back to a lack of discipline...remember, “everyone can act disciplined once, just not each [day.]” Believe me, people want a more intimate relationship with God. I commonly see people, freshly fired up, dive into a new devotional practice. They're on it, for a week, then another, and another....but then something comes up and they miss a day, then another and another. Before long they have lost it. Is this you? Admit it. It's OK. Few people

have the discipline to stay the course.

So, what to do? Back to the wisdom of the IRS....

Use your discipline once to put in place and an automatic accountability system.

I'm not talking about a simple reminder on your iPhone. It has to be another person, or several, because we are prone to excuses. It's easy to brush off a reminder. Ever turn off your alarm clock and fall back asleep? The Bible is clear that we only succeed with the help of others. We need someone else to reach out and help us if we fall. **Don't fall alone**...such powerful and truly constructive wisdom.

*"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed."
Proverbs 15:22 (NIV)*

Set-up your personal group of advisors, your "Team" so you don't fall alone. Each team member must be for you 110%. They must be deeply spiritual, ready to guide you closer to God. And most of all, they must be willing to hold you accountable by holding your feet to the fire.

How does this look?

Tell your Team what you want them to do and why. Perhaps you say this: "John, you are a man of God and I need you to help me. I struggle to have a consistent and deepening relationship with God. Will you hold me accountable weekly?" You might even ask them to add this weekly reminder to their calendar: "Hold [Insert Your Name]'s feet to the fire."

Why?

This is so important, for you, for the Kingdom! You think failing to pay

your taxes or to save for retirement is serious, this blows those away. Don't mess around! Your enemy hates accountability because he knows it leads to success and he hates success. He'll do everything he can to get you knocked off the path.

Oh, the benefits of hot feet!

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

"I Need a Friend to Hold Me Accountable"

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)



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Jesus said many things that upset the Pharisees, but I've had little trouble accepting most things he said, but not this is one. Do I despise my life? Despise is such a strong word! How could I despise my life when ... [Keep reading](#)

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