

## Accountability 101

### **Genesis 8:6-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.

<sup>7</sup> Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

<sup>8</sup> He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

<sup>9</sup> But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.

<sup>10</sup> And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

<sup>11</sup> Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

<sup>12</sup> So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

### **Accountability as demonstrated by the Holy Spirit**

#### **John 16:13-15 (The Voice)**

The Spirit of truth will come and guide you in all truth. He will not speak His own words to you; He will speak what He hears, revealing to you the things to come and bringing glory to Me. The Spirit has unlimited access to Me, to all that I possess and know, just as everything the Father has is Mine. That is the reason I am confident He will care for My own and reveal the path to you.

### Definition:

-Definition of accountable according to [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com),

#### *adjective*

1. subject to the obligation to report, explain, or justify something; responsible; answerable.
2. capable of being explained; explicable; explainable.

-Definition of accountable according to according to [www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com),

#### *adjective*

1. responsible to someone or for some action; answerable
2. able to be explained

Accountability is a godly virtue and is seen throughout scripture. This trait is seen demonstrated/illustrated in scripture within the Godhead; mentor and mentee relationship(s); parent and child relationship(s), etc. The beauty of this virtue is that it can be developed if one does not already possess and demonstrate it. It is a lifestyle for the responsible child of God.

There are many scriptures of the bible that teach us about accountability, however, Genesis 8:6-12 (NKJV) and John 16:13-15 (The Voice) will be the focus of study in this article.

### Note:

The story of Noah and the life he lived can be read in detail from the book of Genesis chapter 5 through Genesis chapter 10. Reading and studying through these chapters will provide a great understanding of the life of Noah, his family and his assignment to the world.

### **Explanation:**

After the flood, the bible says,

### **Genesis 8:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup>So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.

- After Noah and his family got into the ark, they were shut in by the Lord himself (Genesis 7:16). They were later released for the boat by instruction from the Lord (Genesis 8:15-17).
- It was important for Noah to check if the flood had receded, however, it could only be done by checking through the window. When God shuts a door, not one opens and when He opens, no one shuts.

### **Lesson(s) on Accountability**

- ✓ The Lord decided to destroy the human race (Genesis 6:7-8, 13, 17; Genesis 7:10-12). So, God told Noah (Genesis 6:13) and promised to confirm his covenant with Noah (Genesis 6:18). The Lord kept his side of the responsibility after the flood.

### **Genesis 8:1 (NKJV)**

Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that *were* with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

### **Genesis 8:21 (NKJV)**

And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

So, the purpose and action of opening the window of the ark was Noah's action of following through with the *known* promises of God to him. When we receive a word from the Lord with a specified timeframe, we have the responsibility to check back with him.

### Genesis 8:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

- When *Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made*, the first thing he sent out was a raven. A raven is a type of bird. (Read more about ravens on [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)). Noah's purpose/intent of releasing the raven from the ark was not indicated and unknown to the raven. So, probably, when the raven was released, it thought, freedom is here! So, *it kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth*. The raven did not report back to Noah.

### Lesson(s) on Accountability

- ✓ It is possible to ease the process of accountability by stating purpose/intent to another. By so doing, it creates a platform for decisions on what needs to be accounted for.
- ✓ From the time the raven was sent out by Noah (through the window of the ark), it took at least 2weeks to 2months (Genesis 8:10; Genesis 8:12; Genesis 8:14) before the earth got dry. The raven did not report to Noah, so it had to endure the harsh conditions of the weather and environment until everything stabilized. The value of purpose in fulfilling our accountability roles is important because it helps prevent waste of time, energy, resources, etc.

### Genesis 8:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

- **There are many differences between how the raven and the dove were sent out.**
  - a) Noah sent out the raven through the window of the ark which he made.  
Noah sent out from himself a dove.
  - b) The raven was sent out without an assignment.  
The dove was sent out with a stated intent (...to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground).
  - c) The raven was sent from something (the ark) that man (Noah) made. (So, it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made. Genesis 8:6 NKJV).  
Whereas, speaking of Noah again, “He also sent out from himself a dove...” (Genesis 8:8a NKJV).

### **Lesson(s) on Accountability**

- ✓ The description of how the dove was sent out signifies that the dove was not ordinary and perhaps had a close association with Noah (<sup>8</sup>He also sent out from himself a dove...). The dove in this verse was a real dove and a *typology* we need to give attention to.

When Jesus was baptized, we are told that the Holy Spirit came upon him *like a dove*.

**-Matthew 3:16 (NKJV)** -When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

**-Mark 1:10 (NKJV)** - And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

**-Luke 3:22 (NKJV)** - And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”

**-John 1:32 (NKJV)** - And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

\*The Holy Spirit is not a dove. The dove is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

We have the responsibility to host the presence of God by living a lifestyle conscious of Him (the Holy Spirit), always. By so doing, we are living lifestyles of accountability.

We have a great commission therefore we have authority (Matthew 28:16-20). So, we need power in order to be effective (John 20:22 (NKJV) - And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.)

- ✓ The Holy Spirit within us is for our benefit and the Holy Spirit upon us is for the benefit of those around us. Therefore, when the Holy Spirit’s presence is released to an environment, it comes from a designated source to fulfill a specific assignment (See scriptures below).

In Noah’s case, He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. (Genesis 8:8 NKJV).

Speaking of the benefits of the Holy Spirit upon, and its benefits to the people around

**-Luke 8:44 (NKJV)** - came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.

**-Mark 6:56 (NKJV)** - Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

**-Matthew 14:36 (NKJV)** - and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched *it* were made perfectly well.

**-Acts 19:12 (NKJV)** - so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

**-Acts 5:15-16 (NKJV)** - so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid *them* on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

### **Genesis 8:9 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.

- Speaking of accountability, the water had not receded, there was an expectation for the dove to return to Noah.

### **Lesson(s) on Accountability**

- ✓ This principle (as seen in Genesis 8:9) is what Jesus illustrated and demonstrated in the following chapters and verses respectively.

### **-Matthew 10:11-13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> “Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.

<sup>12</sup> And when you go into a household, greet it.

<sup>13</sup> If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

### **-John 20:19-23 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace *be* with you.”

<sup>20</sup> When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

<sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”

We are accountable to God to live like Jesus illustrated and demonstrated in all areas of life.

### **John 5:19 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

### **John 12:49 (NIV)**

For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.

### **Genesis 8:10-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

<sup>11</sup> Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf *was* in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

- The accountability nature of the dove is being revealed. The purpose for which the dove was sent out was gradually coming to fruition.
- The freshly plucked olive leaf was a sign of peace. When the Holy Spirit is welcomed in an environment, His peace rests in that environment. By this we know (Just like *Noah knew* that the flood had receded).

### **Lesson(s) on Accountability**

- ✓ Completing a task is an act of accountability. Therefore, patience is required in the process.
- ✓ Accountability requires that we should be responsible for overseeing a specific task assigned to us until it gets to completion. Until the dove brought proof to Noah about the water receding (which was the original intent of sending out the dove), Noah did not stop sending out the dove.
- ✓ Accountability requires that we transition peacefully not chaotically.

### **Genesis 8:12 (NKJV)**

<sup>12</sup> So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

- The dove found a resting place for its feet. It is the desire of the Holy Spirit to find a resting place in the lives of God's children.

### **John 16:13-15 (The Voice)**

The Spirit of truth will come and guide you in all truth. He will not speak His own words to you; He will speak what He hears, revealing to you the things to come and bringing glory to Me. The Spirit has unlimited access to Me, to all that I possess and know, just as everything the Father has is Mine. That is the reason I am confident He will care for My own and reveal the path to you.

**The accountability nature of the Spirit of truth is revealed in these verses.**

- ✓ Guide you in all truth
- ✓ He will not speak His own words to you
- ✓ He will speak what He hears
- ✓ Bringing glory to Me (The Lord)

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