

## Men-2-pray: What does a spiritually responsible man look like?

It was C.S. Lewis who said, "There is no problem with the Statue of Liberty on the east coast of the USA, just as long as there is also a Statue of Responsibility on the west coast of the USA." Wouldn't we all like to share in all advantages that are available, enjoy freedom? It is so marvellous to receive, be attended to and enjoy good service. It is however not always such a marvellous thought that I also have the responsibility to live in such a way that, through my life and conduct, I will make the same things that I take for granted in my life possible for others.

It is interesting that there are many languages in the world that do not have a word for the concept of responsibility. Many cultures and several religions do not include the concept of responsibility, or it is very poorly developed.

This concept of responsibility is brought to every believer through the Scriptures: God also makes us His representatives on earth (**Gen.1:27-28; 2:15; Heb.2**) and gives us very specific duties. He commands us to do certain tasks and in doing those things, it implies that we must take responsibility.

Assuming responsibility always costs me. It will take my time. It will expect me to give my time, money and labour to make life better for others. It expects from me to make time to pray for others and not only for my own needs. It expects me to crucify myself and put the interests of others before mine.

How can one tell that a man is a Christian man who takes responsibility?

*Daniel* was a man who, from within his position in the government, took spiritual responsibility for the situation in his country and commanded authority and respect because he lived a life of integrity. In prayer he took responsibility for the future of the Jewish people, and a study of the book *Daniel* makes it clear that his prayers can be summarised in Jesus' words, "Let Your kingdom come". *Samuel* took responsibility for the people by saying that he would certainly not sin against the Lord by failing to pray for them (**1 Sam.12:23**). *Joshua* was a man who took responsibility for his family and made sure that his whole household served the Lord (**Josh.24:15**). *Boas* took responsibility for his family and social commitments by marrying *Ruth*, in this way obeying God's commands (**Ruth 3:13**).

- A man who takes responsibility is someone who provides for and takes care of his family and who regards them as a priority.
- God makes the man responsible for his wife: To love her, to take care of her, to provide guidance, to protect her, to see to it that she will develop her full potential and entire being.
- God makes the man responsible as a father to his children: To provide for them and protect them, to give them love and guidance, to teach and discipline them, to be available and raise his children so that they will be "godly offspring" (**Mal.2:15; Eph.6:4**).
- A man who takes responsibility is a man who takes his role as priest in the family seriously, by standing before God in prayer for them.
- A man who takes responsibility is a man who stands before God as priest to pray for the needs of the world around him: The poor, the wronged and victimised, the political situation in the country, the salvation of the unsaved.
- A man who takes responsibility is a man with integrity, who puts into practice the principles of the Scriptures towards the world and in the world. He is a man who does not tolerate injustice or act unjustly.
- A man who takes responsibility is a man who assumes responsibility for his own faults and sins. He confesses his sins and gives them up. He admits to his faults or mistakes and puts things right. He asks forgiveness for his wrongdoings and forgives when others have wronged him.
- A man who takes responsibility is a man who makes time to listen to the voice of God so that he may hear what God expects from him; and when he has heard, he goes out and does God's will.
- A man who takes responsibility is someone who speaks out and acts when the rights of the poor and of orphans and of those who have no say are denied.
- A man who takes responsibility is a man who is not impressed by human honour and recognition, who does not seek the approval and praise of the world; who sees himself less than the least of God's people and the greatest of all sinners (**Eph.3:8; 1 Tim.1:15-16**); for whom the praise of people, titles, position, learning and popularity do not weigh up to God's commandment to do the work of God in the power of God.