

No Perfect People Allowed
How do we move toward authenticity?

1. Begin to _____

Matthew 23:14 *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers.*

Luke 8:13 *But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'*

2. I have to get the _____

a) I focus first on _____

Matthew 7:3-5 *You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

b) Know you are never _____

Hebrews 4:16 *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

c) _____

James 5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

3. _____

a) Offer acceptance _____

Romans 15:7 *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

b) Remember the _____

_____ + _____ + _____

Acts 19:18 *Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds.*

Definition: Conforming to reality and therefore worthy of trust, reliance, or belief.

*Give up trying to please everyone in my life

*Pursue the courage to express what I truly value, enjoy and love even if I think the person I'm talking to will disagree or disapprove.

*Acknowledge it openly when I get something wrong, instead of giving in to the temptation to hide it or manage it or put a positive spin on it.

What a Good Accountability Program/Person Will Have:

- Look for confidentiality. This is most important.
- Look for people whom you already know or have a connection with such as a common interest or season in life.
- Look for people whom you respect and trust. Are they growing in their faith?
- Look for people who maintain a loving and respectful attitude.
- Participants need to respect the feelings and time of others, and to speak the truth in love.

So, what is the final obstacle remaining? The commitment to make it continual. Accountability is not just for a time, it is for all times, and requires our discipline and dedication to keep at it. If we stop, we soon go back to our fears and complacency.

Matthew 3:6 *Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.*

Titus 1:16 *They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.*

Galatians 6:1 *...if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*