

Reading: 2 Peter 1:2-11

Topic: Negative Traits That Will Harm Ministers & Leaders

INTRODUCTION: As we are all aware by now, we are not just saved to sit, but we are saved to be involved in the _____ of God in some areas that He has gifted us for, but even though we have been gifted and chosen, we must _____ on ourselves to unload negative traits that could do harm to ourselves and others in the _____ of God.

I. HARMFUL TRAITS:

A. Responsibility Without Accountability:

1. There are people who are very capable and gifted to do the _____ of ministry, but they do not want to be accountable to anyone they say, "I don't have to answer to anyone but _____."
2. This lack of accountability will lead to _____, because the adversary recognizes the weakness of the individual and will use the opportunity to cause them to _____ in one way or another. Pr. 16:18
3. Everyone needs to understand the importance of being accountable to _____, for without that protection in our lives, we will end up in _____. I Sam. 15:23

B. Negative Thinking & Talking:

1. Whether we realize it or not, our thoughts and our _____ have great power on how we perform our _____ in the Kingdom of God. Pr. 18:21
2. The story of the Children of Israel in Numbers 13 shows to us the _____ and influence that words can have on us and those _____ us. Num. 13:31-33
3. If we have been raised and trained to _____ in a negative way, we must by the help of God retrain our thought processes and our _____ and change to speaking in faith and positivity. Num. 13:30

C. Laziness:

1. Some people have big _____ and ambitions in their mind, but they fail to understand that in order for a _____ to become reality, it takes _____. Pr. 21:25
2. You cannot do a great work for God in your _____, but you have to have movement and action and something called _____.
3. Laziness is a launching pad for all kinds of _____ why we are not making progress or why we are not getting our _____ done. Pr. 26:13-15

D. Power Hunger:

1. Some people have the wrong _____ for being involved in ministry and leadership, and instead of being involved to _____, they want to have a _____ of power. Lk. 9:46-48
2. Unfortunately, this desire for power leads to _____ in the ministry as the individual seeks to have the _____ of everything within reach. Lk. 22:24
3. Instead of promoting growth and expansion of the _____ that they are involved in, the individual seeks to _____ their own little kingdom and get the glory for anything that is happening. Jude 1:16

E. Dictatorship Leading:

1. This negative trait of leadership develops from the _____ hunger trait mentioned above as the desire for _____ grows to the point where an individual becomes dictator like in order to get their way.

2. This type of leadership is known as leading by _____ and the person may resort to different kinds of pressure, including slandering _____ and destroying reputations to get others to follow them. 3 Jn. 1: 9-10
3. This negative trait may cause a few individuals to _____ that kind of leader, but it will be out of fear and intimidation rather than out of _____ and true devotion to the dictator.

II. POSSIBLE TO CHANGE:

A. Conversion:

1. When we come to God, we are all _____ and messed up and involved in varying degrees of sin so God takes our _____ up lives and begins to change us. I Cor. 6:9-11
2. The Spirit of God in us and the _____ of God that is taught and preached to us causes a new person to begin to _____ in us – a Christ-like character that shines like a light in a dark world. 2 Cor. 5:17

B. Forming A Vessel of Honor:

1. If it is possible for God to deliver us from the _____ lifestyle that we were involved in, then it is also possible for God to _____ our negative character traits and replace them with positive ones.
2. Jesus took more than three _____ to work with the twelve men that He chose to become the founders of His church and to work on their negative _____ and prepare them for ministry. Jn. 1:40-42
3. There are several things that are necessary in order for us to become useful _____ in ministry and to be workable material in the _____ of the Master:
 - a. A strong _____ life – daily prayer, the Word of God and the Church.
 - b. A teachable _____ and attitude.
 - c. Accountability and _____ to those that God places in authority over us. Heb. 13:17

CONCLUSION: Though we may have some _____ traits in our lives, we do not have to remain with those things as hindrances to our _____ and ministry – we can allow God to work on us and change us into a vessel of honor that will be effective in the Kingdom of God.