

Title: I am confident II
Pastor: Fred May
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In 1946 in Akron, Ohio Bill Wilson and Bob Smith founded the AA – and its ‘culture of accountability’.

a: What it is

- Lies at the heart of biblical relationships of which the primary aim is to promote the worship, i.e. the awe and reverence of Christ / the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:28 NIV

²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe,

- A trust relationship in which partners assume responsibility for each other’s spiritual well-being and eternal destiny

Hebrews 12:15 NLT

¹⁵ Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

- Only possible within a ‘gossip-free’ environment – i.e. one of trust, where respect and confidentiality, loyalty and unity are esteemed values.

Proverbs 11:13 NIV

¹³ A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.

Proverbs 20:19 NIV

¹⁹ A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid anyone who talks too much.

- God’s means of bonding us into His Body and the Grace available to it.

I John 1:7

⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- God’s provision for sustained health and spiritual authority.

James 5:16 AMP

¹⁶ Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

b: Why it is necessary

- To prepare and practice us for that great Day.

Romans 14:12 NIV

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Matthew 12:36-37 NIV

³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

- the essence of true friendship
- life and success depends on it

Proverbs 20:18 NLT

¹⁸ Plans succeed through good counsel; don't go to war without wise advice.

Proverbs 24:6 NLT

⁶ So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many advisers.

- To protect us from ourselves – we tend to deceive ourselves – we rationalize our sins.
- It is consistent with the human condition – peer opinion weighs more than God's – generally.
- In a predatory and antagonistic world – it provides the support, protection, encouragement and comfort of friends one can trust.
- The pursuit of excellence demands it
- To preserve the sanctity and security of the Body

Hebrews 12:15 AMP

¹⁵ Exercise foresight and be on the watch to look [after one another], to see that no one falls back from and fails to secure God's grace (His unmerited favor and spiritual blessing), in order that no root of resentment (rancor, bitterness, or hatred) shoots forth and causes trouble and bitter torment, and the many become contaminated and defiled by it--

Joshua 7:12-13

¹² **Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies**, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you. ¹³ Get up, sanctify the people, and say, 'Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, because thus says the LORD God of Israel: "There is an accursed thing in your midst, O Israel; you cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the accursed thing from among you."'

Acts 5:1-6

¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. **So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.** ⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him.

c: In practice

Ephesians 4:25 NIV

²⁵ Therefore each of you must **put off falsehood and speak truthfully** to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

- It is only as good as the information on which it is based. Accountability without full disclosure is a waste of time.
- Happens on two levels: the group and the fixed partnership.

- Requires a formal commitment to be honest and transparent – to grow in trust.
- Is focused on the primary/ root issues of life.

I Timothy 6:10, 6 AMP

¹⁰ For the **love of money** is a **root of all evils**; it is through this craving that some have been led astray and have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves through with many acute [mental] pangs.

⁶ [And it is, indeed, a source of immense profit, for] **godliness accompanied with contentment (that contentment which is a sense of inward sufficiency) is great and abundant gain.**

Galatians 6:7 AMP

⁷ Do not be deceived and deluded and misled; God will not allow Himself to be sneered at (scorned, disdained, or mocked by mere pretensions or professions, or by His precepts being set aside.) [He inevitably deludes himself who attempts to delude God.] For whatever a man sows, that and that only is what he will reap.

- We hold each other accountable for GOD's grace and goodness in our lives, making thankfulness and contentment the bedrock of our lives while we hone the skills and art of articulating our testimony.
- Pray for each other, and break bread together, for miracles and break-throughs.

Group level

- How are you responding to your God-given opportunities / Divine appointments?
- How are you growing over your fears?
- How are you honouring your commitments?
- How are you obeying God's voice?

Partner level

- How are you stewarding your resources?
- Are you struggling with anything that could displease God?
- How are you managing your circles of influence?
- How's your pursuit of destiny – (i.e. current assignments) ? – are you on schedule?
- **Have you told the truth today?**