

Time and Accountability Partners **By Karen Whiting**

An accountability partnership is teaming up with someone as Psalm 127:7 describes “...iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another.” You hold one another accountable for progress, life choices, ministry, personal growth, and any other areas you want to develop.

Seek, and become, the right person for an accountability relationship. For a retailer a good partnership may be someone in a non-competing business. You'll need the virtues of trust (able to keep confidences), availability, good listening skills, discernment, encourager, speak truth with love, not jealous, compatible personalities, and able to critique—not criticize. You should also believe in one another's goals and visions.

Once you find an accountability partner establish some ground rules and regular meeting times. You may want to start with a friendly chat to catch up on personal lives or you may prefer a meeting with an agenda.

Suggested guidelines include:

- Focus on one person at a time and allow time for both of you.
- Note the partner's hectic days on your calendar and commit to pray for him on those days.
- Review past goals and progress.
- Discuss obstacles to progress and brainstorm ways to move forward.
- Discuss frustrations since the last meetings and possible solutions.
- Bring up any new desires and goals.
- Plan steps to achieve goals and hold the other accountable for the next step.
- Discuss action steps to take before next meeting and set deadlines.
- Recognize when defensive attitudes are interrupting intentions.
- Commit and follow through with decisions.
- Consider ways to encourage one another between meetings (emails, notes, calls) so you can both thrive and grow.

Bio: Karen Whiting is an international speaker and author of nineteen books, including *The 365 Most Important Bible Passages for Women*)



<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/karen-whiting/>

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