



How To Start Your New Year Off RIGHT!

(5 things to do - 30 verses to review)

1. LOOK BACK on HIS BLESSINGS!

God is always faithful! If we look at the past year, we'll find that He has been with us, (providing for our needs and working in our lives) even when we didn't realize or acknowledge it!

- *Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. Remember the wonders He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He pronounced. **1 Chron 16:11-12***
- *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:17***
- *Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done. **1 Chron 16:8***
- *A blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you. **Deut 23:5***
- *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him. **Lam 3: 22-24***

2. FOCUS on the FUTURE, and GOD'S PLANS FOR YOU!

God has plans for our lives, and they're plans to help us prosper! (*Prosper means to succeed, to become strong and flourish*)

- *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43:18-19***
- *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11***
- *In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps. **Prov 16:9***
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Cor 5:17***

3. DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT IS TO COME!

God is with us in the new year, and **we don't need to worry about anything when we focus on Him!** He is our strength; He is with us and we have nothing to fear.

- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **Philippians 4:6***
- *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6***
- *Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7***

- So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” **Hebrews 13:6**
- “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” **Matthew 6:25-26**
- Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. **Matthew 6:34**
- Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**
- Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. **John 14:27**
- When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. **Psalms 56:3**

4. PLAN AHEAD for the COMING YEAR!

While we’re reflecting on the year that has gone, and the year that is to come, it’s important to plan ahead.

- A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn’t, and even brags about it! **Prov 13:16**
- For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it - lest, after he has laid the foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish?’” **Luke 14:28-30**
- Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds. **Prov 27:23**
- May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed. **Psalms 20:4**
- Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run. **Prov 21:5**

5. FIND CONTENTMENT IN GOD, and GIVE THANKS!

As you begin this New Year, it’s important to remember that TRUE contentment can only be found in GOD! When other things, people, or circumstances bring us contentment, it is only temporary. And GIVE THANKS for all that He has done for you in the past year(s), and what He will do in the year to come.

- Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. **Phil 4:11-13**
- A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. **Proverbs 14:30**
- “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness” ...Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.” **2 Cor. 12:9-10**
- Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. **Psalms 100:4**
- But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Cor 15:57**
- And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17**
- Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. **Psalms 96: 1-3**

At the dawn of this New Year God’s desire is that we be FILLED WITH HOPE for what is to come, and have THANKFULNESS IN OUR HEARTS for what has already passed.

“I am doing a new thing ...” **Isaiah 43:18-19**