

Preparing for a New Year

A Good Start

I. New Year's Check List

A. Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? **You are not your own;** ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

James 4:4-8 (NIV)

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

⁷ **Submit yourselves, then, to God.** Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

B. Check the Trash

Hebrews 10:32-36 (NIV)

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. ³⁵ **So do not throw away your confidence;** it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

1 Peter 2:23 (NIV)

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, **he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.**

Daniel 3:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, **the God we serve is able to save us from it**, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸ **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

C. Hebrews Salad

Hebrews 10:19-25 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² **let us draw** near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ **Let us hold unswervingly** to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And **let us consider how we may spur one another on** toward love and good deeds. ²⁵ **Let us not** give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but **let us encourage** one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

1. Draw near to God, v.22
2. Hold unswervingly to our hope, v.23
3. Spur one another on, v.24
4. Continue meeting together, v.25
5. Encourage one another, v.25

D. Get Generous

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.** ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Malachi 3:7-10 (NIV)

Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?'" ⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity of a new year. You are the one who gives life and breath, I look to you as my sustainer and provider. Today I choose you, may your will be done in my life. I rejoice in the knowledge that you are my strength and my deliverer. Holy Spirit give me eyes to see the glory of my God that I may trust him more fully. I will respond with a generous spirit to my Lord and my redeemer, in Jesus' name, amen.

© copyright 2014 World Outreach Church