



Essentials for a Good Year!



Our Theme For The Year

Allow Your Faith
Through Works
To Be Seen In
2018



Observations

- 2017 is over and done, just like “the Y2K” experience
- We can do one of two things with 2017
Sit around and worry about what we failed to do and the mistakes we made

Or

We can decide to make most of this New Year that God has given us

- Whatever we decide to do, remember, time is moving on. Time is not sitting still and waiting on us to choose
- If we are not doing anything spiritually with our lives, it really doesn't matter how much time we have this year



Proverbs 17:24

*“A discerning(wise) person keeps wisdom in view,
but a fool’s eyes wander to the ends of the earth.”*

- One version says “a fool starts off in many directions” (No plan of action at the beginning of the year)
- An intelligent person aims at wise actions, goals

What is your goal for this year?



Four Keys For A Good Year

#1 Accept Responsibility For Your Life

- Some people would rather blame others for their difficulties and mistakes
- Accepting responsibility for one's life is not popular in our culture
- There is a feeling in our society that says “None of your problems are your fault”



“The Blame Game”

Everything Bad In Your Life is Someone Else’s Fault

- Blame the environment
- Blame the educators
- Blame your parents
- If you’re in an accident, it’s somebody else’s fault
- If you spill hot coffee on your self, sue the restaurant

But Remember the Bible, “For every man shall bear his own burden.” Galatians 6:5

All of Us Face Two Kinds Of Circumstances

A) Those Over Which We Have No Control
That is No excuse for not having a plan
(Examples would be the Weather, the Economy,
Company we work for, the Words or Actions of others)

B) Those circumstances as a result of our own
choices and actions
(Examples like quitting your job *without another one*, then blaming your extended family, or the church or a church member for refusing to accept financial responsibility for *your* actions)

Someone Has Said That There Are Three Kinds Of People In Life

- The Accusers- It's always someone else's fault
- The Excusers-Always have an excuse for mistakes
Whenever I procrastinate, any excuse will do
- The Choosers- People who choose to accept responsibility for their own lives,
These are individuals who choose not to be dependent on the crowd for direction in life (Dependent, Independent, Interdependent)



#2 Believe You Can Change

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

- **There is nothing that I cannot conquer with the help of Christ who gives me strength**
- **Nothing in 2018 (No problem, no situation, no circumstance, no hassle, that I can't manage with the help of the strength of Christ)**
- **Paul believed and lived what he wrote
2Corinthians 11:24-27**



Observations

The Bible Is Full Of People Who Believed They Could Change
Their Circumstances After Establishing a Relationship
With God

- God chose Moses to lead and save His nation in Egypt
But Moses saw himself as a murderer, a shepherd and a stutterer
- God chose Gideon to lead His nation that had been over run by the enemy
But Gideon saw himself as the youngest child in the poorest family
of the smallest tribe in Israel



#3 Clarify What Is Important

Three Things Should Top Your List Of Importance

#1 What will you do this year to strengthen your relationship with God?

What will you do to become more intimate with Him?
(Prayer Time, Bible Study)



#2 Your Relationship With Your Own Family

#1 How can you better lead your family, spiritually?

Men, women, you can't save your marriage and family by your own influence (you must be **spiritually** influential)

Make spiritual time a priority with your family

What can you do to make your family **spiritually stronger**?

Allow Your Faith Through Works To Be Seen In 2018



#3 Your Relationship With the Church

- What are you willing to do to improve the quality of the church for which Christ died? Ephesians 5:25
- How involved are you willing to get to help the church accomplish the mission God gave it? Romans 12:3-5



Remember: Don't Wait To Begin!

Ecclesiastes 11:4

“Whoever watches the wind will not plant, whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.”

- If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done
- We have a tendency to say, *“When things settle down, or when things get better, then I will commit”*



That Is Called Life!

Things may never settle down or get any better!

Learn to read your Bible and Pray when life is unsettled (Philippians 4:6)

Learn to be content under circumstances less than perfect (Philippians 4:11)

Many have missed out on life by waiting for “the perfect time, age, man, woman, circumstance”



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38