



## THE GIFT OF A NEW YEAR

**Psalm 90:9-12 (ESV)** *<sup>9</sup> For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. <sup>10</sup> The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away. <sup>11</sup> Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you? <sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

1. God, who dwells in eternity, created a **temporal** system for us with days and years that all serve as opportunities for new beginnings.
  2. A new year is a great time to **evaluate** your life and make appropriate adjustments.
- 1 Timothy 4:7 (ESV)** *Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness;*
3. Keys for a successful new year are **forgetting** the past and **focusing** on what lies ahead.

**Philippians 3:13-14 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup> *Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,* <sup>14</sup> *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

4. Developing **goals** and a **strategy** for what you want to do in the next year is essential.

**2 Peter 3:18 (ESV)** *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

5. It is important to develop **best practices** for spiritual growth and development.

***Developing good mechanics without becoming mechanical.***

6. Consider these four areas of focus for your personal evaluation.

## **1. Pursue Biblical literacy**

1. **Jesus** used the Old Testament to defeat the presentation of temptations of the devil.

2. David declared that **memorizing** scripture is an aid in holy living.

3. Paul said, **Colossians 3:16 (ESV)** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one*

*another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”*

4. Utilize the weekly resources of the church to assist your biblical literacy.

## 2. Embrace Christ-like Attitude

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|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Humility.          | 11. _____ |
| 2. Faithfulness.      | 12. _____ |
| 3. Obedience.         | 13. _____ |
| 4. Holiness.          | 14. _____ |
| 5. Dependence on God. | 15. _____ |
| 6. Patience.          | 16. _____ |
| 7. Kindness.          | 17. _____ |
| 8. Sacrifice.         | 18. _____ |
| 9. Conviction.        | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____             | 20. _____ |

## 3. Establish righteous practices

1. Give God the first day of every week.
2. Devote yourself to the things of God.

**Colossians 4:2 (NLT2)** Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

**1 Timothy 4:13-16 (ESV)** <sup>13</sup> Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

<sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

<sup>15</sup> Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. <sup>16</sup> Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

3. Give God the first minutes of every day. Have an accountability partner.

4. Give God the first dime of every dollar.

## 4. Be filled with the Spirit

**Ephesians 5:15-20 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for

*everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

1. Being filled with the Spirit was the **expectation** of the New Testament church for **EVERY** believer.
2. Being **continually filled** with the Spirit is essential for victorious living.
3. Being filled with the Spirit produces a **heart** of worship and a **spirit** of joy.

Make 2019 your best year ever! In 2019 with God's help I will: \_\_\_\_\_

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