



NEW YEAR . . . NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Isaiah 43:16-19

The Lord - *“I am the Lord, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick. But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”* (Isaiah 43:16-19)

- **What are some ways that God has blessed me and my family and our Church family these last several years?**
- *“Give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Ephesians 5:20)
- **The Lord has even greater plans and purposes for our lives, family and Church in the days ahead.**
- The Lord - *“But forget all that (in the past) — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new.”* (Isaiah 43:18-19)
- **What are some “new things” that I would like for the Lord to do in my life?**
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- *“God is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”* (Ephesians 3:20)
- **What are some steps that we need to take to position ourselves to experience something “new and better” from the Lord?**

To Experience A “New And Better” Year We Need To:

DEVOTE OURSELVES TO SERVING THE LORD WITH OUR WHOLE BEING

- *“What does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases Him, and love Him and serve Him with all your heart and soul.”* (Deuteronomy 10:12)
- *“Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.”* (Romans 6:13)
- *“The only thing that Christianity cannot be is moderately important.”* (C.S. Lewis)
- **The Lord wants us to give 100% of our life to Him.**
- Jesus - *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.”* (Matthew 6:24)
- **Work, play, sports, hobbies, friends, school, dating, pleasure, making money, possessions and even family can push the Lord out of “first place” in our lives.**
- **What excuses do I keep giving God for putting myself first in my life?**
- *“In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your efforts with success.”* (Proverbs 3:6 LB)

To Experience A “New And Better” Year We Need To:

DISCIPLINE OURSELVES FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIVING A GODLY LIFE

- *“Whoever practices discipline is on the way to life.”* (Proverbs 10:17)
- **We cannot be a disciple of Jesus without having discipline in our life.**
- *“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”* (1 Timothy 4:7 NASB)
- *“Train yourself to be godly.”* (1 Timothy 4:7)
- **We need to practice the discipline of *Letting Go Of Some Things*.**
 - *“Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress.”* (Hebrews 12:1b)
 - **What are some activities, habits or relationships that I need to let go of in order to move forward with the Lord?**
- **We need to practice the discipline of *Putting First Things First*.**
 - *“Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, ‘Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.’ But the Lord said to her, ‘My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.’”* (Luke 10:40-42)
 - **One way we put the Lord first is to develop a time during our day where we prioritize spending time with Him in worship, Bible reading and prayer.**
 - *“When Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.”* (Daniel 6:10)
 - **What are some practical steps that I can take to develop a stronger devotional life in 2023?**
 - *“There is enough time in every day to accomplish the Lord’s will.”* (Corrie Ten Boon)
 - **14 Days of Prayer and Fasting January 8-22**

- Prayer and Fasting Guide included in Worship Guides
- Sign up to receive daily devotions beginning today at celebrationchurch.org/prayerfasting. The devotions for January 1-7 will help you prepare for the prayer and fasting emphasis.
- *“God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.”* (Philippians 2:13)
- ***In what ways do I need to change my schedule or priorities in order to put the Lord’s priorities in “first place” in my life?***

To Experience A “New And Better” Year We Need To:

DEVOTE OURSELVES TO GLORIFYING GOD IN ALL WE DO

- *“Whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”* (Colossians 3:17)
- **We should be willing to dedicate ourselves in 2023 to glorifying God because of who He is to us and what He’s done for us.**
- *“Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.”* (Romans 12:1)
- *“He (Jesus) died for everyone so that those who receive His new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.”* (2 Corinthians 5:15)
- *“If Jesus Christ is God, and He died for me, there is nothing I should not be willing to do for Him.”* (C.T. Studd)
- ***What steps am I willing to take to experience the “new and better” things that the Lord has for me in the coming days and months?***
- The Lord - *“But forget all that (in the past) — it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new.”* (Isaiah 43:18-19)
- *“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’”* (Jeremiah 29:11)
- ***What is the Lord saying to me through this message?***