

December 28, 2014

## Staying On Focus

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We are looking forward to the end of the current year and forward to the new coming year. God's plan for the new year is that it would be crowned with goodness and favor.

Psa 65:11 "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness." KJV

Other translations say "where your footsteps touch earth a rich harvest is gathered" or "bounty and goodness, the tracks of your chariot wheels will draw the fatness"

Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." KJV

Verse 19 God says that He will make a way where there is no way and sustenance where there hasn't been any.

Verse 18 says when we are in the midst of a challenge and remembering the bad things that He is going to do a new thing and make a way for us.

The new year should be seen as a year of opportunity, crowned with God's goodness, not allowing the bad things we see around to draw us down, losing sight of what God has in store for us.

Job 28:7-8 "There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: 8 The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it." KJV

There is a place which no demon force knows about, he is not aware of the secret place of the most high. Psalms 91 tells us about the secret place and we should not have anything to fear, if we will just stay in the secret place.

If we could look ahead to the end of the new year, 2015, what would be the outcome of that year be for us? Has it been a bad year or has it been a year that we have experienced many blessings? There are principles that will facilitate us having a great year. We may have to do some things that we don't want to do in order to see this happen.

The following scriptures tell us about Paul being in jail and how he encouraged the people, he is not correcting them like he had in the past. He is teaching them the importance of the ability in staying focused. He was focused on Jesus, not the circumstances that he was in.

Phil 3:12-18-14 "I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. 15-16 So let's keep focused on that goal,

those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. 17-19 Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites." MSG

Phil 3:12 "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." KJV

Believers must learn to face the challenges that come their way, staying focused, keeping their eyes on Jesus knowing that there is a divine plan for each of them, Jesus has already made the way for them.

If we are going to walk by faith, we must know that faith has the ability to see the answer, when no one else sees the answer. We cannot be looking at the problem, seeing or talking the problem, letting it rule our lives, faith sees further than that, God is bigger and has the ability to swallow up the things that try to detour us. Our focus must be on Jesus, we cannot focus on the problems.

We must stay focused on God, not letting outside things take our time, even though they may be good things, we must keep our priorities on Gods plans for us, losing our focus will cause us to miss our goal. Total commitment means we must be willing to do what it takes to cross the goal or finish line, even if we may fall or stumble, get back up and go on. Don't allow other people to pull you in a different direction, keep with those you know who are on the right path.

We must become relentless in our pursuit of God, being determined and unwavering. Relentless can mean not having pity or compassion; we cannot have pity on our problems. There is a challenge in becoming relentless, but no option if we are to succeed, total commitment is required. We cannot allow fear to control or manipulate us. Fear is a spirit, but perfect love removes fear.

1 John 4:18-19 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. 19 We love him, because he first loved us." KJV

Paul in the following scriptures is speaking of him being called by God, knowing what the plan God had for him was, and because of Jesus, he was able to accomplish through faith the goal for his life. He did not seek counsel from others but received entirely from God. Anything that he gave up to follow Jesus was worth it.

Gal 1:15-16 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:" KJV

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations" KJV

Phil 3:8-10 "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the

faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" KJV

We must be led by the spirit in order to know God's will, to be fruitful in whatever we are doing and increasing in the knowledge of Him. Knowing the plan and will of God is progressive revelation. He will direct our pathways as we begin to go.

Col 1:9-11 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" KJV

Col 1:9-11 "For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray *and* make [special] request for you, [asking] that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom [in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God] and in understanding *and* discernment of spiritual things— 10 That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him *and* desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing *and* increasing in *and* by the knowledge of God [with fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition]. 11 [We pray] that you may be invigorated *and* strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, [to exercise] every kind of endurance and patience (perseverance and forbearance) with joy," AMP

Psa 32:8-10 "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. 9 Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about." KJV

Eph 2:10 "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]." AMP

We are going to have an abundance even when things are not going well for others, but we shall flourish. God makes a difference for His people.

Isa 58:11-12 "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. 12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." KJV

Phil 3:19-21 "Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal. There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. I've warned you of them many times; sadly, I'm having to do it again. All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is a dead-end street. Those who live there make their bellies their gods; belches are their praise; all they can think of is their appetites. 20-21 But there's far more to life for us. We're citizens of high heaven! We're waiting the arrival of the Savior, the Master, Jesus Christ, who will transform our earthy bodies into glorious bodies like his own. He'll make us beautiful and whole with the same powerful skill by which he is putting everything as it should be, under and around him." MSG

We cannot give into our emotions and feelings, living after the flesh, however, when we want to yield total commitment to Jesus, we must learn to deal with the desires and wants that take our eyes off the goal. We must be hard fighters and relentless.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

We are told in Genesis 14 how Abraham after he was told that raiders had taken his nephew Lot and all that he had, Abraham got up at night, didn't wait until morning, armed his 318 servants and rescued Lot. He was a hard fighter and relentless in his pursuit.

Staying focused with total commitment and relentless in our pursuit of God. This should be our plan for the new year, we don't want to have to say that we have missed our opportunities.