

December 31, 2017 - New Years Eve

Visions For The New Year

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Begin to expect a great year not only for the church, but for America and financial blessings for all that are believing God and that favor and increase will be manifest in your lives.

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

Psa 65:11 "Wherever your footsteps touch the earth, a rich harvest is gathered." CEV

Psa 65:11 "You crown the year with Your bounty and goodness, and the tracks of Your [chariot wheels] drip with fatness." AMP

This is the time of year that we begin to make New Year resolutions, why do we make these resolutions? Are we wanting to improve ourselves, make changes and accomplish new things in our lives or because it is the thing to do? Statistics tells us that many people making resolutions do not carry through with what they have declared to do, 93% don't do what they want and only around 7% will accomplish what they have set out to do. Making quality decisions and having better discipline could raise this percentage to a higher level if we would undertake making a change. 30% making resolutions will drop after a week, however 80% will maybe make it a couple months. We must have clear direction in mind, specific goals that we have made in order to accomplish our plans. Things must be written down in order for us to be able to remember what the plans and goals are.

There are practical principles that need to be followed in order to accomplish the goals that we have set before ourselves.

Isa 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

Isa 43:18-19 "Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't

you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands." MESSAGE

Don't be tied to the past, the negatives things, the adversity that has been there. What are our expectations for now as we enter into a new year, can we see victory or are we looking at the failures of the past? Have we just quit because of things getting tough or have we continued forward, working things out? God wants to make a way for us and will have provision for us and it will be new, begin to look for the way of God. He is looking for ways to bless us and not punish us.

As we study the following scriptures, we will begin to see the importance of writing down the plans or goals that we desire to see accomplished. It is the desire of our pastor to see the believers begin to move out fulfilling the plans that God has for them. Pastor realizes that only about 3% write down their visions and yet only around 7% will continue until they see the manifestations. We each will have different resolutions, reading the bible through, read a book a month or spend more time in prayer, saving more money, changing our lifestyles, exercise or eating habits. Don't set yourself up for failure, don't make the goals so far out that you won't be able to accomplish them, keep your resolutions within your abilities to do what you have declared. Begin to anticipate for things to work out, don't be held to the past and the negative things that may have happened there. God is going to be doing a new thing. God has already prepared the way, but we will have to be looking for it. When we begin to find the ways of God, regardless of what age we might be, what our IQ might be, by getting the right combination, things will begin to work for us. Finding the ways of God and the way that He operates, the goodness of God will open and we will unlock what has been locked to us before. However, if we don't know where we are going, have no vision or goals, then we may be taking the wrong road in our lives. The vision or goal is the roadmap for our life.

Phil 3:12-13 "Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own. 13 I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead," AMP

Phil 3:12-13 "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."

MESSAGE

Paul is teaching about God's plans and purposes for us to be able to prosper. Paul is acknowledging that he has not reached the goal that God has set before him, but that he has his eye on the goal and is headed in that direction. Paul apparently had goals for his life and has made plans to reach those goals. If we don't have visions or goals in our life, we are going nowhere, we are only hoping to make heaven one day. But God has an abundance for you, there is a champion on the inside of you, waiting to be released, where we can run with the plan that God has for us, He is beckoning us onward to Jesus because He has an awesome plan, it was predestined, prepared beforehand in order for us to be blessed.

Eph 2:10 "For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), [a]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

Writing down the vision, making it plain in order that it can be read in the future, is one of the principles involved. Being reminded of a truth is for our safety. Habakkuk is answered by the Lord regarding the question that he had asked about the children of Israel why things were so bad for them. They had lost their vision and were beginning to perish. Vision is all about seeing and we must be able to see with our spiritual eyes what God has provided for us.

Hab 2:2-3 "And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." KJV

Pro 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." KJV

If we are making a New Year resolution for this year, we need to be writing it down what we are believing God for, time will cause it to be eroded away if it is not written down, we need to be reading it daily to remind ourselves as to what we believing for. It will become a part of us and we will begin to move in that direction. Don't become so busy that we neglect to read what we have written down, write it again if necessary to refresh and make it real again, make it plain and make it clear. Teaching the younger children the importance of writing down their dreams and visions for the future, reading them and making them plain will begin to show in their lives,

those dreams and visions will come to pass, they are for an appointed time. It will take discipline, courage and persistence in their lives and in ours. The dreams and visions that younger children have may seem impossible, but we know with God all things are possible. Encourage them to write it down, read it everyday and they will start moving in that direction. Dreams and visions are the language of the Holy Spirit and comes from God.

In setting goals they need to be something that will cause us to stretch, if not get a bigger dream, take steps to pursue during the difficult and challenging times in order to realize the goal. Stand strong, don't be led astray by other people, they can either go with you or without you.

Phil 3:14-19 "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.*"

MESSAGE

Are we in that 7% of people who made New Year resolutions going to succeed or are we in the group that will quit along the way, having no backbone, no commitment, discipline, courage or are not persistent? Our desire should be to continue with the vision which has the power to run toward the goal. Paul had stated that he was off and running and would not quit, we should have the same confession. Staying focused on the goal, write it down, make it clear and plain, having total commitment, God will clear our vision and we will see what it is we are believing Him for. Something less than total commitment will cause blurred vision, we will not be able to see clearly. If we have committed to exercise, eating less and spending more time with the Lord but are getting lazy in our bible reading or any of the other things we have committed to, do we have total commitment?

v. 17-19 *We cannot look at others that maybe are going the same direction that we are and yet they are not on the same course, we have to avoid them. All they want is an easy way, but that is a dead-end, their eyes are not focused on the plans or visions that God has for them.

John 17:4 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." KJV

John 17:4 "I glorified you on earth By completing down to the last detail What you assigned me to do. And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, The very splendor I had in your presence Before there was a world." MESSAGE

Jesus has finished the work that the Lord had given Him to do while on earth. The blind men came to Him and were persistent in what they wanted. He had provision made for them, He asked them if they believed that He could heal them. Their answer was yes and according to their faith, they received what they were believing for.

Matt 9:27-29 "And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you." KJV

Matt 9:27-29 "As Jesus left the house, he was followed by two blind men crying out, "Mercy, Son of David! Mercy on us!" When Jesus got home, the blind men went in with him. Jesus said to them, "Do you really believe I can do this?" They said, "Why, yes, Master!" He touched their eyes and said, "Become what you believe." It happened. They saw." MESSAGE

In running our race, we must write the dream down in order to rehearse it daily and then begin to take steps to pursue the dream that God has given to us, being disciplined, have courage and being persistent.

Do we believe that God is able to take care of us in 2018, do we believe that He will enable us, give us the power to go further with Him and reach our goals or dreams, do we believe?

If we think that we are failures, fighting addictions and will never be set free, then we will become what we believe. But if we really believe the provision that God has made for us, then we will be an overcomer. Don't be one of those who quit. Stand firm and receive what you are believing for. 2018 will be a great year for the

believer. WRITE IT DOWN!!!