

# How to order your New Year

## Eph 5:16

How many of you make New Years Resolutions?

How many break them within a week or shorter?

Most of us make those crazy resolutions year after year and we never follow through year after year.

How many times have we made spiritual promises but didn't keep them?

The Word of God tells us that it's better to not have made a vow than to make one to the Lord and break it.

When we do that in our spiritual lives, we set us up for failure and open the doors for the enemy to come in and wreak havoc in our lives.

As we go into 2012 what is your expectation? Do you hope things are going to be better than last year?

Are you expecting things to change all by themselves?

You can enter this New Year with greater blessings, more anointing, more victories than you've ever had.

So this morning I want to share with you how you can enter 2012 with a greater presence of God in your life.

**1. First, you need to get a new vision or in some cases we need to renew the vision of what God has for you this coming year.**

There are several folks sitting out here this morning that God has given you promises, placed things in your heart that got you excited but you haven't seen the fulfillment of them yet.

I'm here to tell you this morning under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, don't let your dreams die.

Don't let go of what God has placed in you're heart...the Spirit of the Lord says the time of fulfillment is at hand. Harken unto my words this morning, do not be discouraged or dismayed...For I the Lord God am able to do exceedingly abundantly above that which you ask or think.

For I respond to faith...trust me saith the Lord, trust me.

A. There are many **promises** which are yet to be fulfilled concerning your life in this coming year.

God wants to load us daily with blessings...

He wants to get us to the place that before we put the seed in the ground a harvest comes...

He wants the best for your life, but you've got to give the Spirit of God something to work with.

B. **God** wants to be involved in your life more than just on Sundays. He has a whole plan for your life that He desires for you to walk in.

God can not bless you like He wants to unless you allow your life to be partnered with Him.

The problem with too many of us, we want God to be a silent partner, we want His support without His involvement.

As we enter 2012, you will need the Holy Spirit's involvement in your life like never before.

C. We need to make up our mind that we are going to let God work in use this coming year.

*2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. KJV*

2 Cor 3:18 *And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.* NLT

In Acts 20:24 Paul says *But my life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus--* (NLT)

The only one that can really tell you what God has in store for you this year is God. When you receive a word from someone, it should confirm what God has been speaking to you.

I can't do this for you, you've got to seek God for yourselves.

***2. Secondly, if you want a blessed 2012 you must begin to do those things that God shows you.***

Many have been lured into a false sense of security because we hear so much teaching and preaching and we think because we know it, then we're protected.

James 1:22 *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.* KJV

Knowing what God's will is and doing God's will are two different things.

A lot of people know what the Bible says about healing, provision, salvation, being filled with the Holy Ghost, but they don't walk in the fulfillment of the scriptures.

Some believers are stuck in a spiritual rut.

Most of us are creatures of habit. We will order the same thing when we go to a restaurant. We do the same routine every morning when we get up.

The truth is we feel comfortable with the familiar, and this is where problems begin in our life.

Sometimes that carries over in our spiritual walk, and our church. We like singing certain types of songs, we like having our service in a certain order.

We've always done it this way.

Let me share with you church, if we keep doing the same thing over and over again, guess what, we're going to keep getting the same result.

If we're going to see our church grow this year and if you're going to grow in grace, you're going to have to get out of the rut and stop doing things that's never been effective, and start doing some new things.

If you want your life to be different, then you have to do some different things.

I know it's scary out there on the edge!

Going into uncharted territory makes you nervous, gives you the creeps, puts butterflies in your stomach, but let me share something with you, God always goes before us, and knows what the outcome is going to be when we take His path.

One of my favorite scriptures that I quote to you a lot is Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

Psalms 37:23 *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

Psalms 85:13 *“Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps.”*

God knows where you're **going**, and if you're following Him, He's already tested and made a way for you before you ever took that first step.

So this year, don't be afraid of doing what God tells you to do! Whether you've ever done it or not.

### **3. Make a new commitment to developing your relationship with God.**

Another thing that will greatly impact your life in 2012 is to make up your mind that you're going to develop your relationship with God.

Something the Lord shared with me once, if we take our relationship with Him casually, that we will become a casualty of our faith.

It is a dangerous thing to take your faith for granted...

There's nothing casual about spending eternity in hell...

There's nothing casual about missing the dreams and plans that God has for your life...

How many knows this morning that it takes **effort** to build a relationship.

Two people sitting in the same room together, never talking, never bothering to see what the other is doing will never develop a relationship.

But yet we'll come to church, and never really plug into the service and wonder why we didn't get anything out of it.

Make up your **mind** that you're going to go deeper with God!

That sounds great pastor, but how do you do that!

*A. First, you've got to have a **made up** mind that you're going to do this.*

Paul said in Phil 3:14 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

He was focused. It takes more than good intentions to accomplish anything.

Someone once said that the road to hell was paved with good intentions. Good intentions are not enough, you must carry it through.

How many get in a big discussion every day that you're going to work or not? For most people they just get up and go because you know if you don't work, you don't eat.



But why is it we don't put that same determination in our spiritual lives as we do in our physical lives?

*B. After you make up your mind to do this, then make a plan of **action** and follow it.*

Here's what should be in your plan of action...

First, you need to read the **word** more. Make up your mind that you're going to spend every day in the Word.

Commit to a time that you're going to sit down every day and do this and don't let anything get in your way of doing it.

Spending time daily in the Word is one of the single most powerful things you could do for yourself spiritually...

Spending time in the Word will increase your faith...

Spending time in the Word will make your prayer life more effective...

Spending time in the Word will make you Spiritually powerful...

So in 2012 spend more time in the Word!

Second, make up your mind to **pray** more.

I challenge every one of you to commit to spending at least 15 to 20 minutes in prayer every day and to join us on Sunday Nights for our Corporate Prayer Time.

You will see a change in your attitude and your life when you make a commitment to spending time with your Heavenly Father every day.

**Thirdly, you need to make up your mind that you're going to be a contributor instead of a spectator in the Kingdom of God.**

The sad truth is, in most churches 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work and that also translates to working for the Kingdom.

In 2012, don't set back and let someone else take your place in the Kingdom of God.

Each and everyone of us this morning has a place to fulfill in God's Kingdom.

Get involved...

We need each and every one of you to get involved in inviting people to come to church.

Did you know that the only difference between a church that is growing and a church that isn't is **Intentional Invites** and **Follow Up**.

If you aren't inviting people to come, we're not going to grow.

Not everyone you invite will come, but statistics show that one out of every four people said they would go to church if someone invited them to.

Become a contributor to the church by regularly inviting people to come...just a simple, do you go to church anywhere? If not, invite them to be your guest here.

Another way to work for the Kingdom of God is by getting involved in working in the local church.

We need all sorts of people to help in us creating a better ministry to reach our city. But we can not grow unless people commit to being a part of active ministry in the local level.

You might be saying, I'm doing my own thing...We all should be sharing our faith on a regular basis and praying, but the acronym TEAM better describes what we should be like...Together Everyone Accomplishes More!

I want to see more people saved in 2012, I want to see more people delivered in 2012, I want to see more people filled with the Holy Spirit in 2012, I want to see more people healed in 2012, but it won't happen unless we as a church determine to be more committed to working for the Kingdom of God through this outlet at Three Rivers Worship Center.

It really takes this next thing too...

**Fourthly, become a regular attendee of church.**

Most people don't understand the importance of church...it's where you go to develop relationships. It's where you go to experience ministry and it's where you go to serve the body.

I have people tell me they want to do something in the church but they're not faithful in their attendance.

If you're not faithful to the house of God, you won't be faithful to a position, or His Kingdom.

Hebrews tells us not to forsake the gathering of ourselves together, even that much more as the day of Christ's return approaches.

**4. Don't let anyone get you off track.**

As I've shared these things with you this morning, how many of you are aware that the enemy doesn't want you to implement not one of these things in your life?

He's going to try to see to it you don't have time to read the word and pray. He's going to see to it that other events keep popping up on church days that will keep you from coming to the house of God.

Here's one of the greatest words the body of Christ needs to learn.  
NO!!!!!!

Say No to the things that will get you off track because as sure as I'm standing here, the enemy is going to try to derail your plans.

He's already trying to keep you from putting any of what you're hearing this morning into practice.

Learn to be sensitive to discern the attacks of the enemy.

*A. The scriptures tells us in 2 Corinthians 2:11 that we are not ignorant of Satan's devices.*

*2 Cor 11:3 But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. NLT*

That's why you need to wear the armor of God

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. KJV*

It's up to you guard your heart. You need to make the right choices this coming year.

And finally...

**5. If you get off track don't stay off track.**

If you mess up, don't stay messed up! Repent and ask forgiveness and seek the strength you need from the Holy Spirit and God will give you what you need to make it! Whatever you do, don't stay down!