

**HOW TO FORGET THE
TROUBLES, PROBLEMS, AND
FAILURES OF THE PAST AND
MAKE THE NEW YEAR THE
BEST YEAR OF YOUR LIFE**

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DANIEL WHYTE III

*How to Forget the Troubles, Problems, and Failures of the Past and
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Thank God for years past and for New Years to come. And I thank my family for their support.

No New Year for you if there is no new you
for the New Year.

—Daniel Whyte III

INTRODUCTION

We are living in “times that try men’s souls.” These are truly difficult days for many people around the world. This little book is written to encourage you to forget the troubles, problems, and even failures of the past and to truly have the best year of your life. If you do what I am encouraging you to do in this little book, by the grace of God and with His blessings on your life, you will have a great year. How do I know? Because the last three years of my life have consistently been the best ever and they are getting better and better because I am following the simple principles contained in this book. So shake the previous year off of you, and get ready for the best year of your life!

—Daniel Whyte III
Dallas, Texas

I AM THANKFUL TO GOD FOR GIVING US TIME-MARKERS. I believe that in His grace and mercy, He has done so to give us feeble and frail human beings the joy and privilege of starting over. I do not know about others, but I get excited about a New Year.

Why do I get excited about the coming of a New Year? The coming of a New Year says to me that God is giving me a chance to turn over a new leaf; He is giving me a clean slate to begin another chapter of my life, fresh and new. I get excited about the coming of a New Year because it is almost as if on December 31st I close an old door and open up a new door. The New Year is an invitation to patch up old wounds, old hurts, and old disappointments, to forgive those who have done us wrong, and to be forgiven by those we have done wrong. I get excited about the coming of a New Year because it is a time to set new goals and to take on new challenges. It is also a time to draw closer to God and anticipate the great things He has in store for us and the new plans He has set for our lives.

Due to the way God wired me, I am an optimist. There is not a pessimistic bone in my body. I really enjoy life. I don't dwell in the past, and I always believe my

future will be greater than my present. So when God, in His mercy and grace, gives me a New Year to work with, I believe it is going to be the best year ever. I hope that you have a similar outlook on life. I hope that you are not a sad pessimist who ruins his or her God-given New Year by dwelling on the troubles, problems, and failures of the past. That is a miserable way to live, and there are various reasons why many of us live that miserable life of pessimism and thus ruin all that God has planned for our lives. Below are three reasons why I believe many people are unable to live the abundant life that God has freely given each of us, and thus unable to make each year that comes around the best year of their lives:

The Inability to Forget Hinders Millions from Reaching Their God-Appointed Goals and Destiny

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Philippians 3:13).

I believe with all my heart that more goals and wonderful projects have never been completed due to people’s inability to forget the past than for any other

reason. My dear friends, you cannot accomplish much of anything if you allow your mind to dwell on the troubles, problems, and failures of your past. If God was through with you, you would be dead. If you are still living, God still wants to use you and glorify His name through you. Stop wallowing in the mire of failure and inconsistency; get up, fight, and do what God has given you to do.

Mark Twain said, "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, but it's the size of the fight that's in the dog." Fight with all that is in you to forget the negative things of the past. Forget your problems; forget your failures; forget how unfair your boss was to you; forget how you were laid off from your job first; forget the hurt and the anger and the bitterness you harbored in your heart that stole your joy, happiness and peace of mind for almost the entire year; forget the misunderstanding between you and your spouse that almost brought about the destruction of your family; forget the pain your rebellious and wayward child caused you in the past year. Forget it! Forget it! Forget it!

Many people allow themselves to remain stuck in what happened back then or what someone said to them back then. Many people allow the devil to bind them up with their past, not realizing that God has a plan for

their future. But that plan is oftentimes held up because of our own mental and emotional roadblocks and the refusal to forget. Don't allow the plan that God has for you in the New Year to be hindered because of your own inability or your own unwillingness to forget.

The Devil Doesn't Want You to Forget Your Failures and Sins

“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” (Revelation 12:10).

You will find that whenever God tries to get you excited about a New Year or a new project or a new goal, the devil will hurry up and get there to remind you of how wretched and sorry you really are. Sometimes, he will say to you, “How can you do that wonderful thing for God when you did such and such?” And if you don't have some God-given fortitude and determination, you will lay aside your God-given dreams and sink down into another mediocre and miserable year. What a pity! What a waste! Don't let the devil do that to you.

The devil specializes in planting doubt, despair, and

accusations in our minds. If he can get you to wallow and sink in the mire of your sins and failures of the past year, he knows that you will see the upcoming year with darkness and will approach and enter into it with hesitancy, doubt, and a shallow faith, if any faith at all, in the God who is eagerly waiting to give you the best year of your life. Each New Year ought to get better than the previous year.

Frankly, Satan does not want you to realize your God-given purpose in life, and if he can prevent you from realizing that purpose by constantly bombarding you with your past failures and mistakes, then you, if you dwell upon those failures and mistakes, will never realize your God-given purpose and thus will not live your life to its fullest.

There Are Some People Around You Who Don't Want You to Forget Your Failures Either

“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Nehemiah 6:3).

Now, these dear folks may not be the devil, but they

are certainly of the devil. I will tell you in a few minutes what to do with these people. But in the meantime, don't let anything or anybody detour you from your God-given goals and destiny be it family, friends, or foes. Despite your family, friends, and foes, forget anyway. Forget you must, if you are to reach your God-appointed goals and destiny. If the blood is still running warm in your veins, and there is still air in your lungs, you must learn how to forget a lot of stuff in this life if you expect to be happy and successful. Focus on your God-given dreams and win. It's as simple as that.

Life is full of choices and you have to choose to forget your troubles, problems, and failures of the past; you have to choose to forget those who keep reminding you of your failures; you may have to cut ties with your family or your friends or whoever the devil is using to put a damper on your New Year.

Here is how you can forget the failures of the past and make the New Year the absolutely best year of your life:

How to Forget

I hear someone asking, 'How can I forget? These bad memories keep coming back to my mind. When I try

to do something good, the mistakes and failures that I have made in the past keep flying through my mind.' One Christian writer said many years ago: "You may not be able to control the birds that fly over your head, but you can keep them from making a nest in your hair." The same thing goes for negative memories. Here are some suggestions to help you forget the failures of the past:

1. Accept the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ if you have not done so already.

Romans 9:13 states: "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

Salvation through Jesus Christ has an amazing way of wiping the slate clean and causing you to forget a lot of negative things that you have done in the past. Since Jesus Christ saved me, there are even people that I have forgotten. So, if you are not saved yet, may I encourage you to accept the free gift of salvation by placing your trust, faith, and belief in Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection, and He will save you and change you forever.

Because of our sins, the things that we have done wrong, God had to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die

on the cross to pay the penalty of death and hell. If God did not send His Son to do this, each of us would have to pay the penalty for our own sins which is eternal punishment and separation from God in a place called hell. Three days after Jesus was crucified, He rose from the dead, defeating death and hell forever. All we have to do to receive this free gift of salvation and secure a place in Heaven is believe that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose from the dead by the power of God for our sins. John 3:16 says: ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, may I invite you to pray the following prayer from your heart and ask Him to come into your life:

Heavenly Father, I realize that I am a sinner and that I have sinned against you. For Jesus Christ’s sake, please forgive me of all of my sins. I now believe with all of my heart that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose by the power of God for me. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart, save my soul, change my life, and fill me with your Holy Spirit today and forever. Amen.

After you get saved, you become a new creature in

Christ. The Bible states in 2 Corinthians 5:17: ***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** As a new creature in Christ, you begin to take on a new mentality--a Christ-like mentality. That Christ-like mentality will allow you to forget about your failures and sins of the past because they have already been washed under the precious blood of Jesus Christ. He has forgiven you and now you can forgive yourself and move forward with your life.

2. Ask God to forgive you of your sins.

1 John 1:9 states: ***"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."***

Friend of mine, you will never stop remembering the failures or sins of the past if you don't ask God through Christ to forgive you and cleanse you of your sins.

Don't just ask Jesus to cleanse you, accept His forgiveness. Many people pray daily, 'Lord, forgive me of my sins.' But after praying their hearts out, they refuse to accept the Lord's forgiveness and continue to live defeated lives.

Forgiveness is a very important gift that is essential for life. It allows us to be free from past sins and wrongdoings and gives us peace and hope for a brighter future. As we accept the forgiveness of God, we will begin to realize that spiritual freedom is possible and we can overcome habits and strongholds in our lives, which will enable us to make the New Year fulfilling.

3. Repent of your sins.

Jesus told the woman taken in adultery, “***Go and sin no more.***”

Someone once said, “If you keep doing what you are doing, you will keep getting what you are getting.” We cannot erase bad memories by creating new bad memories. So, repent, turn away from the failure or sin that produces the bad memories in your life.

Now to forget your failures and sins of the past, you have to accept those sins and failures and repent of those sins. Before you can move on in the New Year, you must deal with what is hindering you. Face up to your sins and mistakes and repent of them. When you do that, the devil and those who want to accuse you will have nothing to attack you with.

Dr. Mark McMinn, professor of psychology at George Fox University writes the following about confession: "We must not forget human potential and goodness because somewhere deep inside is always a glimmering urge to confess, to be restored and reconciled in meaningful relationships, to do what is right and abandon what is wrong."

Repent means to turn away from; to do an "about face." Turn away from your sins of the past year, and turn away from whatever caused your failures in the past year. If you don't want to fail, then do not do what you were doing that brought on the failures. Sin has major consequences, some of which are irreparable, and as the old saying goes, "sin will take you further than you wanted to go, make you stay longer than you wanted to stay, and make you pay more than you wanted to pay."

As you look back at your sins, failures, and mistakes of the past year, it would be wise to pay attention to the pain these sins and mistakes caused you (and maybe others around you), and tell yourself like T.D. Jakes said in one of the titles of his sermons, "I betcha I won't do that again."

4. Remember the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:9 states: ***“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”***

I am reminded of an old song I first learned right after I was saved titled, “Nothing but the Blood.” One of the stanzas goes like this:

What can wash away my sins?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Ask God to apply the blood of Jesus Christ to your memory because the blood of Jesus Christ is so strong it has the power to cleanse and to erase from your mind your past failures. And even if the devil, your family, your friends, your enemies, or anyone else tries to bring up your past to you, all you have to say is, "It is covered under the blood of Jesus." As the song, “The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power” says:

The blood that Jesus shed for me
Way back on Calvary
The blood that gives me strength
from day to day
It will never lose its power.

It soothes my doubts and calms my fears
And it dries all my tears
The blood that gives me strength
from day to day
It will never lose its power.

CHORUS

It reaches to the highest mountain
It flows to the lowest valley
The blood that gives me strength
from day to day
It will never lose its power.

5. Do the very best you can to make things right with those you may have offended. Clear your conscience.

Acts 24:16 states: *“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.”*

Romans 12:2 states: *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*

If you have offended someone or if they perceive that

you have offended them, try, by God's grace, to make it right with them. Go the second mile if you need to. Also, forgive and release those who may have offended you. You can't harbor resentment and bitterness, and be happy. It simply can't be done. Ephesians 4:31-32 states: ***"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."***

Christian author and long-time professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, Lewis Smedes states in his book, *Forgive and Forget*: "With a little time, and a little more insight, we begin to see both ourselves and our enemies in humbler profiles. We are not really as innocent as we felt when we were first hurt. And we do not usually have a gigantic monster to forgive; we have a weak, needy, and somewhat stupid human being. When you see your enemy and yourself in the weakness and silliness of the humanity you share, you will make the miracle of forgiving a little easier."

I remember, once when a brother in Christ and I were not right with each other, that every time I tried to pray, God would bring this person to my memory. That stopped after I went to make things right with that dear

brother. Bad memories won't go away until you make things right.

Do you remember what Jesus said about those who want to bring Him an offering without first getting things right with the person they had offended or with the person who had offended them? Jesus said, *“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift”* (Matthew 5:23-24).

Jesus is saying in this verse, don't come praying to Me when you are at odds with your brother or sister in Christ. Don't come offering praises to Me when you refuse to shake your brother's or sister's hand. Don't come telling Me you love Me when you have hatred and bitterness in your heart toward a family member. Don't come expecting a New Year when you have unresolved issues from the past year. As I said earlier, bad memories won't go away until you make things right.

6. Read several key passages of the Bible each day.

Psalm 119:9 states: *“Wherewithal shall a young man*

cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

The Bible has a cleansing effect on the heart, mind and spirit. Try reading at least three chapters in the morning and two at night and notice the difference it will make in your mindset and outlook. You have to replace bad memories with good stuff. The Bible is the best “stuff” in the world.

As you read your Bible, read all of it, but focus on verses that deal with your particular sins, failures, and struggles. As you read the Word of God, have an open mind as well as a made up mind to obey what it says. Don't read it to forget it! Read it to remember it, and the more you obey it, the more you'll be able to recall it. As you study God's Holy Word, remain humble as you allow it, through the working of the Holy Spirit, to thoroughly cleanse you.

7. Read positive books.

Reading has an effect on the mind that no other form of communication has. Readers are truly leaders and leaders are readers. God can use one good book to change your life forever. Of course, the Bible is the best book there is.

I have often heard people say that the way you start the New Year off will be the way you end it. If that statement is true, start the New Year off on the right foot by reading some good wholesome books, and continue reading good wholesome books throughout the year so you'll end the New Year the way you started it--by reading good wholesome books. Take heed to what you read from these books so that by the end of the New Year, you will have added some good traits and positive behavior to your life.

8. Listen to positive CDs, audio-books, lectures, sermons, etc., as you travel in your car or as you exercise.

Someone once said: "A good CD a day will keep depression away." There is some truth in that statement. Your drive time can be a "university" on wheels. Good audio CDs play a role in replacing negative memories. Always keep your mind occupied with positive things.

Here is what a college professor said about the benefits of listening to audio-books while driving: "One of the benefits of listening to these audio books is that you can fit it into your schedule without having to place too much emphasis on changing your lifestyle. Audio books can be listened to while driving your car or on

your Mp3 or CD player while riding the bus or subway. They are especially useful when traveling by train or airplane. You may even discover that listening to audio books can become addictive and may find yourself listening to them as you prepare for work, school or whatever you do in the morning. What may be the ultimate shock is one day you may start to listen to these books as a means for entertainment in general, instead of watching TV, or listening to the radio.”

9. “Pray without ceasing.”

The devil, the flesh, the world and other people will remind you how sorry you are, but “just a little talk with Jesus makes it right.” Prayer alone is probably the most powerful weapon against negative memories because prayer helps to keep our mind focused on God, and when we keep our mind on God, He will “keep us in perfect peace.”

Throughout each day, pray to the Lord. He's available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. To get started, begin as Daniel in the Bible did and pray morning, noon, and night. As you will notice, it may take a while for you to get going in prayer, but once you get going, something begins to take place, something begins to happen within your heart and soul,

and you begin to feel compelled to keep on praying. The more you pray, the more you will want to pray, and you will find that throughout the day, the Holy Spirit will prompt you to pray.

Through prayer, God will open up doors for you. Through prayer, God will give you the victory over your sins of the past. Through prayer, God will show you how not to repeat your failures of the past. Pray in faith, expecting God to do great things for you in the New Year.

Here are some of my favorite quotes on prayer. Read them and allow them to bless your heart and encourage you to pray no matter what:

As is the business of tailors to make clothes and cobblers to make shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.

—Martin Luther

Therefore, whether the desire for prayer is on you or not, get to your closet at the set time; shut yourself in with God; wait upon Him; seek His face; realize Him; pray.

—R. F. Horton

The men and women who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking Him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day.

—E. M. Bounds

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results.

—R. A. Torrey

The main lesson about prayer is just this: Do it! Do it! Do it! You want to be taught to pray. My answer is pray and never faint, and then you shall never fail.

—John Laidlaw

Prayer wonderfully clears the vision; steadies the nerves; defines duty; stiffens the purpose; sweetens and strengthens the spirit.

—S.D. Gordon

10. Turn the television off for a while.

If you are not careful, television can ruin you. It can contribute to depression and disillusionment because a lot of the stuff on television is not fit for Christian consumption. Certain situations on television can trigger negative memories and failures of the past.

Television also has a deadening effect on the mind; it thinks for you. In fact, it empties your mind of everything, and if you do not view shows on television with a critical mind, the devil will see this as an opportunity to fill your mind with worthless stuff – stuff that is ungodly, and that can and will cater to your fleshly desires. This is not a good way to begin the New Year.

If the devil can control your mind, which is what he is seeking to do, then he will remind you of every failure in your life that he can. He will burden you with your sins and failures of the old year at the onset of the New Year to get you all downcast about the year ahead before you even enter into the New Year. So turn the television off, get alone with God, and find out His will and plan for your life in the New Year.

11. Depart from old friends and family who like to

bring up old, negative and unprofitable memories.

Love these folk. Pray for them. Help them if you can. But stay away from them as far as the east is from the west, because their design is to bring you down with them.

A preacher-friend of mine tells the story of how he learned from an old fisherman that when one goes crabbing you have to put the lid on top of the crab bucket if you only have one crab, but you don't need the lid if you have two or more crabs. The reason for that is because when you have two or more crabs in the bucket, each crab will constantly try to pull the other crabs down. Isn't that how many people are today? Watch these kinds of people whether they be family, friends, or foes, because if you are not careful, they will try to take you down.

As you branch into the New Year, consider these three questions that Charlie Jones presents in his book titled *Life Is Tremendous*: "Whom are you going to live your life with? What are you going to live your life in? What are you going to live your life for?"

I consider the last question to be the most important question because you must have someone who is

greater than you to live your life for. That person is Jesus Christ. Family and friends may try to bring you down by bringing up things that happened way back when, but Jesus will forgive you and give you the grace and the strength to move forward with your life and accomplish the great things that He has uniquely prepared for you to accomplish.

So, in the New Year, what are you going to live your life for? Money? Fame? Power? Prestige? Having a big house? Having fine clothes? Family? Friends? Your job? Driving the latest car model? I would encourage you to make up your mind to live your life for Jesus Christ and for Him alone.

12. Forget—anyway—anyhow.

Forget the negative past “by any means necessary” (within legal boundaries). As the commercial goes—“Just do it.” That is a choice that you have to make. I’ll talk with you more about that in a few minutes.

13. Replace the past with positive goals and visions from God for your future.

Pray and ask the Lord to give you exactly what He wants you to do for this year and then plan accordingly, and

begin to work hard and pray hard to accomplish what it is that He wants you to do.

How to Make the New Year the Absolutely Best Year of Your Life

1. Don't dwell on the troubles, problems, and failures of the past, but analyze them, learn from them, and then forget them.

Make your failures your friends by learning from them, and by learning how to avoid doing them again. Boy, if we can just eliminate the sins and failures from just the past year, not to mention the years before the last one, what great victories we could win in the New Year.

In order to learn from your past problems and failures, you have to face them. Many people live their lives running away from their problems and failures; others just refuse to accept them, living in a fantasy world of denial. You can't overcome your problems and failures of the past year if you do not acknowledge and accept them. This is the first thing that you must do in order to make the New Year the absolutely best year of your life.

Samuel Smiles said, "We learn wisdom from failure

much more than from success. We often discover what will do by finding out what will not do, and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.”

2. Realize that you cannot make the New Year the best year of your life by yourself—only the Lord can.

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13).

The most life-changing thought that has ever come to me, I learned from the Word of God. And that is: “CHRIST IN ME THE HOPE OF GLORY.” My friends, if you can get a hold of that fact, in a real sense, that the true Christian has Christ living in him, you will never be the same.

You can’t, but Christ can! If you have a great year, it will be because of Jesus Christ and not because of your ingenuity, intuition, education, administration, talent, skill, ability, strength, or intelligence. If you and I succeed, it will be because of Jesus Christ. And, of course, He alone must get all of the glory.

One of the reasons, in fact, the main reason, we cannot overcome our sins and failures of the past year is because we are trying to overcome them in our own

strength. God told Zerubbabel in Zechariah 4:6: *“Not by [your] might, nor by [your] power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of hosts.”* God also told Jeremiah to *“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not”* (Jeremiah 33:3). We think we can overcome our problems and failures in our own might and by our own strength. But God is telling us, 'no, you cannot.' God is telling us, 'I'm waiting on you to ask. I'm waiting to show Myself mighty in your life.' But some of us are so stubborn and full of pride that we see it as weakness to “let go and let God.” Our song is, “I did it my way” and “I'll do it my way.” The problem here is, your way is the way that led you to some of your troubles and failures in the past year. God wants to give you a successful New Year, but He will not force His will on you.

Annie Johnson Flint wrote the poem below about how we should depend on God to do things in our lives. The poem goes partly like this:

I cannot, but God can;
Oh, balm for all my care!
The burden that I drop
His hand will lift and bear.
Though eagle pinions tire,

I walk where once I ran,
This is my strength to know
I cannot, but God can.

3. Stay in touch with your Heavenly Father.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”
(Ephesians 6:18).

“Pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

We have already touched on this some, but frankly it can't be touched on enough, due to the dual fact that none of us are inclined to do it and because it is so very important. The prayer factor alone is probably fifty to seventy percent of the reason you will have great victory in the New Year because there is tremendous power in prayer. If we don't pray, we get what man can do. But if we pray, we get what God can do. And between the two are a world of difference.

Even though God tells you to pray always, He is not going to make you pray. But He will, however, bring about circumstances in your life that will compel you to pray. Luke chapter eighteen tells us that ***“Jesus spake***

a parable unto them that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). That word “ought” indicates you don’t have to pray if you don’t want to, but it is best for you to pray. It behooves you to pray. Just as this widow in Luke eighteen was persistent in going to the judge to judge her adversaries, Jesus wants us to be persistent in our prayers. Sometimes because we are not persistent, God does not answer our prayers right away because He wants to see how serious we are about what we are praying for. If you really want to get rid of a problem or sin in your life, be persistent in prayer about it, and pray until God delivers you from it. If you don't want to repeat some of the failures you experienced in the old year, persist in prayer about it in the New Year. With all your doing, do pray!

4. Let your Heavenly Father stay in touch with you.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

God wants to advise you. God wants to guide you through this maze called life. God wants to show you

the right and good way. But He can't really do that if you don't read His divine road map—the Bible. Friend, God is in the holy “helicopter,” if you will, and you are on the ground and He can see far more than you can. Besides, He's been this way before.

It is foolish to start out somewhere (in this case the New Year), and not look at the divine map. Read your Bible daily and receive guidance for every step of the way in the New Year and beyond.

The Bible addresses just about every issue mankind is faced with, so learn to read the Bible for daily guidance. Just as you look keenly at a road map and study it carefully, do the same with the Bible--God's roadmap for victorious living. If you follow its teachings, precepts, and principles, your New Year will indeed be a **NEW** Year and all the years that follow will be blessed as well, as long as you continue in God's Word.

5. Discern your God-given calling and gifts; get your vision and goals from the Lord; and pursue them with every fiber of your being.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18).

I believe that God has given every soul born into the family of God a calling to serve Him and gifts with which to do so. You need to pray and ask God to show yours to you so that you can start following His plan for your life. Then you need to pray and ask Him for the vision and goals that He wants you to reach for, and then you need to determine in your heart, by His grace, to pursue and capture what He has put in your heart.

One of the reasons many Christians are living miserable lives is because they are trying to serve God in an area in which they are not called to serve in. Some are singing in the choir when their God-given gift is obviously something else. Others are teaching little children when they do not have the patience to handle little children. Others are ushering in the church when they do not like to be around a lot of people. Pray and ask God to show you your gift so you can truly live your best life.

6. Spend time with positive and upbeat people who will help you reach your goals for the New Year.

Let me say this as kindly and simply as I can—get as far away as you possibly can from negative, pessimistic, non-motivated, underachieving people, because they

will bring you down or at least slow you up. Dr. Bill Purvis says it this way: “These people might be saved, they might be going to Heaven, but get these negative, toxic people away from you. They will drain you.” He is right.

7. Prioritize, prioritize, prioritize. Organize, organize, organize.

“Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Hey! This year, let’s put first things first. Let’s do the most difficult things first instead of last. Let’s get our priorities in order, and let’s put our best efforts into the best things. If we do so, we will get more return on our investment. How many people you know can’t get major important projects done because they are simply not organized to do so. So, this year, let’s take time and get our proverbial and literal “house in order” so that we can move towards high productivity like a well-oiled machine.

One of the best books that I have ever read and that helped me out a lot when I first became a Christian is a little book titled *Doing It Now* by Edwin C. Bliss. If you do not have a copy of this book, I would encourage

you to order a copy from Amazon.com or from your local bookstore. In this book, Bliss skillfully and simply gives us steps to take to overcome procrastination, to organize our lives, and to get things done NOW.

He begins his book by urging the reader to create four separate lists to help prioritize and organize our lives. Below are the four lists. Create these lists for yourself and let them help you set goals and priorities for the New Year. Edwin C. Bliss writes:

1. List all of the things, large and small, that you are putting off in your place of work. The project you meant to begin, the suggestion you were going to make, the misunderstanding between you and your boss that you were going to resolve, the overdue report, the unfiled paperwork, the contacts you meant to follow up, the memo you were going to write. See if you can fill at least an entire page.

2. Now, make a separate list of tasks you've been putting off around your home, the household chores that have been nagging at you for weeks or months or maybe years. Take a tour of your yard, then go through your house room by room, attic to basement, and write down all the

things you've been meaning to do “when I get the time.”

3. Now make a third list, consisting of things you are postponing in the field of personal relationships. The letters or phone calls that have existed for so long as “intentions,” the family reunion you've wanted to organize, the backpacking trip you've meant to take with your kids, the neighbor you've intended to get acquainted with, the phone call you should make to your Aunt Mary, the school friendship you'd like to renew, the community action project you've been waiting for someone else to initiate.

4. And finally, make a list of the things you've been meaning to do for yourself some day. The art class you've wanted to take, the vacation you've postponed for too long, the bad habit you know you should extinguish, the exercise program you've intended to start, the language you'd like to learn.

8. Prepare for detours.

How many people start the year out with great

intentions, goals, and even vision, but get permanently side-tracked before February rolls around ? A lot of times, the reason for that is because they didn't plan for the obstacles, difficulties, and problems that they would have to overcome to succeed.

If you didn't know, now you know. Plan to make some detours in the New Year around and/or through some persecution, problems, and people so that you can stay on track and reach your goals.

Notice the following on this matter of trouble:

“Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble” (Job 14:1).

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

“And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me” (Psalm 50:15).

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God

of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Missionary, speaker, and writer, Elisabeth Elliot says: “The will of God is never exactly what you expect it to be. It may seem to be much worse, but in the end it's going to be a lot better and a lot bigger.”

Each year comes with its own unique set of difficulties, challenges and distractions. And let me just give you a heads up, there are some things that are going to happen in this New Year that are going to shock you, amaze you, and surprise you. Instead of trying to avoid them, accept the fact that they are coming, and prepare now to meet them head-on.

If the New Year is a great year for you, don't forget to give God the glory! Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said: ***“Hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man”*** (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Remember to forget the things which are past and push forward into the New Year, confident of your salvation in Jesus Christ, the gifts that He has given you, and the goals He wants you to pursue.

Visit Daniel Whyte III online at:

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www.twitter.com/danielwhyte3bks

RESOURCES

BOOKS

1. *Getting Things Done* by Edwin C. Bliss
2. *The Principle of the Path* by Andy Stanley
3. *Starting Your Day Right* by Joyce Meyer
4. *God's Big Idea* by Myles Munroe
5. *Power for Living* by T.D. Jakes
6. *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper
7. *To Live Is Christ* by Beth Moore
8. *30 Life Principles* by Charles Stanley
9. *Surviving One Bad Year: 7 Spiritual Strategies to Lead You to a New Beginning*
by Nancie Carmichael
10. *Ending Your Day Right* by Joyce Meyer
11. *Chicken Soup for the Soul: My Resolution (101 Stories): Great Ideas for Your Mind, Body, and Wallet* by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and D'ette Corona

12. *Keep the Change* by Becky Tirabassi
13. *Change Your Heart, Change Your Life*
by Gary Smalley
14. *Lord, Only You Can Change Me* by Kay Arthur
15. *10 Choices: A Proven Plan to Change Your Life Forever* by James MacDonald
16. *Power Filled Living* by R.A. Torrey
17. *Secrets to Spiritual Power* by Watchman Nee
18. *Secret of Spiritual Strength* by Andrew Murray
19. *The Power of Surrender* by Michael Catt
20. *The Prayer Motivator* by Daniel Whyte III

RESOURCES

WEBSITES

1. Resolutions Worth Keeping - www.christianitytoday.com/ch/news/2004/jan2.html
2. What Sort of New Year's Resolutions Should a Christian Make? - www.gotquestions.org/new-years-resolution.html
3. A Christian Perspective on the New Year - www.sacredmint.com/community/christian-article-new-year-perspective.htm
4. New Year's Resolutions by Ralph Wilson - www.joyfulheart.com/new-years/new-year.htm
5. New Year's Resolutions for Families - www.christian.families.com/blog/new-years-resolution
6. Resolution Solution: 6 Great Ways to Make Your Goals Stick by Joan Esherick - www.kyria.com/topics/hottopics/selfcare/1.30.html
7. New Year's Resolutions Your Family Can Live With by Jim Liebelt - www.crosswalk.com/parenting/11642985

RESOURCES

QUOTES

No New Year for you if there is no new you for the New Year.

—Daniel Whyte III

Look not back on yesterday
So full of failure and regret;
Look ahead and seek God's way--
All sin confessed you must forget.

—Dennis DeHaan

Resolution One: I will live for God. Resolution Two:
If no one else does, I still will.

—Jonathan Edwards

There is within every soul a thirst for happiness and meaning.

—Thomas Aquinas

If this is to be a Happy New Year, a year of usefulness, a year in which we shall live to make this earth better, it is because God will direct our pathway. How important then, to feel our dependence upon Him!

—Matthew Simpson

When Satan reminds us of our past, we should remind him of his future.

—Author Unknown

Life at its essence boils down to one day at a time. Today is the day!

—Jim Stovall

As we grow older in life, years somehow seem to shorten and New Year's Day approaches with an ever increasing tempo. The more mature we get, the more we realize that time is only relative; how we live means more than how long we live. Haply also we do not live by years, but by days. In His wisdom God does not show us all that lies ahead. So we enter a New Year to live it day by day. What is past is past. Today we start anew, and what we do today will make our life for tomorrow. Chin up, shoulders straight, eyes agleam, let us salute the New Year, and each day let us follow more faithfully, more courageously, more daringly the lead of our great Captain who bids us follow Him.

—William Thomson Hanzsche

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a New Year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year

resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterwards. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

—G. K. Chesterton

If you're running a 26-mile marathon, remember that every mile is run one step at a time. If you are writing a book, do it one page at a time. If you're trying to master a new language, try it one word at a time. There are 365 days in the average year. Divide any project by 365 and you'll find that no job is all that intimidating.

—Chuck Swindoll

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,

But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making your path easy,

But by making you sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from you,

But by taking fear from your heart;

Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,

But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes
 need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you
 for the year ahead.

—Anonymous

If you want to do something good, do it; and if you cannot do it, then resolve to do it, and you will have achieved the resolution even if you do not fulfill the action itself. Thus a habit, whether good or bad, can gradually and spontaneously be overcome. If this were not the case, no criminals would ever be saved, whereas in fact not only have they been saved, but many have become conspicuous for their excellence. Think what a great gulf separates the criminal from the saint; yet resolution finally overcame habit.

—Peter of Damascus

Good habits are not made on birthdays, nor Christian character at the New Year. The workshop of character is everyday life. The uneventful and commonplace hour is where the battle is lost or won.

—Maltbie Babcock

We must bear in mind that mere resolutions to take

more time for prayer and to conquer reluctance to pray will not prove lastingly effective unless there is a whole hearted and absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.

—Anonymous

We should take advantage of His faithfulness and make every day a fresh start. Resolve to make each day the beginning of a New Year, a new morning, a new adventure. He wipes the slate clean and goes back to zero so we can be filled up again with His spirit and give it out all day long. Enjoy the blessings of a New Year, in Christ, one day at a time!

—Debbie Carroccio

Relying on God has to start all over everyday, as if nothing has yet been done.

—C.S. Lewis

Continuous effort—not strength or intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential.

—Winston Churchill

God will one day hold us each accountable for all the things He created for us to enjoy, but we refused to do so.

—Rabbanic Saying

What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity.

—J. Sidlow Baxter

Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards.

—Soren Kierkegaard

Wherever you are, be all there.

—Jim Elliot

Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure.

—Helen Keller

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me, to feel nothing done against me. It is to be at rest when

nobody praises me, and when I am blamed or despised.
It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go
in and shut the door, and kneel to my Father in secret,
and am at peace as in a deep sea of calmness, when all
around and above is trouble.

—Andrew Murray

If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world
trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven
making your way through this world.

—Vance Havner

Don't be afraid that your life will end, be afraid that it
will never begin.

—Anonymous

Cherish things while you still have them,
before they're gone,
and you realize how precious they really are.

Everything in life is temporary.
So if things are going good,
enjoy it because it won't last forever.
And if things are going bad,
don't worry because it won't last forever either.

Destiny is not a matter of chance,

it is a matter of choice;
it is not a thing to be waited for,
it is a thing to be achieved.

A journey of a thousand miles
begins with a single step.

Never cross a bridge
without knowing how to swim the tides.

If you could not add years to your life
Add life to your years.

—Author Unknown

Each new day is a new beginning-
to learn more about ourselves
to care more about others,
to laugh more than we did,
to accomplish more than we thought we could,
and be more than we were before.

—Author Unknown

Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does
enlarge the future.

—Paul Boese

It is easier to go down a hill than up, but the view is from the top.

—Arnold Bennett

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

—Anne Frank

The greatest part of our happiness depends on our dispositions, not our circumstances.

—Martha Washington

Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on.

—Winston Churchill

I believe that life is given us so we may grow in love, and I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower - the Light in my darkness, the Voice in my silence.

—Helen Keller

God is looking for ordinary people empowered by Him to do extraordinary things!

—Unknown

If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is

always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down but the staying down.

—Mary Pickford

Let it be remembered that steadfast application to a fixed aim is the law of a well-spent life.

—Unknown

Life is made up of little things. It is very rarely that an occasion is offered for doing a great deal at once. True greatness consists in being great in little things.

—Unknown

Life, like war, is a series of mistakes, and he is not the best Christian nor the best general who makes the fewest mistakes. Poor mediocrity may secure that, but he is best who wins the most splendid victories by the retrieval of mistakes.

—Frederick W. Robertson

Go forth today, by the help of God's Spirit, vowing and declaring that in life—come poverty, come wealth, in death—come pain or come what may, you are and ever must be the Lord's. For this is written on your heart, 'We love Him because He first loved us.'

—C.H. Spurgeon

In the rush and noise of life, as you have intervals, step home within yourselves and be still. Wait upon God, and feel His good presence; this will carry you evenly through your day's business.

—William Penn

The Most Important Step to Having the Absolutely Best Year of Your Life

If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, don't begin the New Year without taking the time to make this all-important decision that will affect your eternal welfare. Please read the following below and begin life anew with Jesus Christ as your Saviour:

1. Accept the fact that you are a sinner, and that you have broken God's law. The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 7:20: *"For there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not."* Romans 3:23: *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*

2. Accept the fact that there is a penalty for sin. The Bible states in Romans 6:23: *"For the wages of sin is death..."*

3. Accept the fact that you are on the road to hell. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 10:28: *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*

The Bible says in Revelation 21:8: *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters, and*

all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

4. **Accept the fact that you cannot do anything to save yourself!** The Bible states in Ephesians 2:8, 9: *“For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

5. **Accept the fact that God loves you more than you love yourself, and that He wants to save you from hell.** *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

6. **With these facts in mind, please repent of your sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and pray and ask Him to come into your heart and save you this very moment.**

The Bible states in the book of Romans 10:9 and 13: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

7. If you are willing to trust Christ as your Saviour please pray with me the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, I realize that I am a sinner and that I have sinned against you. For Jesus Christ's sake, please forgive me of all of my sins. I now believe with all of my heart that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose from the dead for me. Lord Jesus, please come into my heart, save my soul, change my life, and fill me with your Holy Spirit today and forever. Amen.

