

Determined to Be Better!

Introduction

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead**, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- 1. As we have now entered yet another year of our Lord, as we reflect on our past and look to this year, perhaps we can be better servants of God on a daily basis.**
- 2. If you have been dealt experiences that have seemed harsh and cruel this last year and even the year before, your thinking may be calloused and you may possibly dread this new year.**
- 3. However, if you have had some really good experiences this past year, you may be entering this year looking forward to more good things to come.**
- 4. Whatever this New Year means to you, it is time for each one of us to be determined to be better Christians and servants of almighty God.**
 - A. Changing from 2021 to 2022 can provide a reference point for new resolves and happy challenges.**
 - B. These should be made up of real commitments, submissions and surrenders based not only on our strengths and determinations, but in the security of the living God.**

Philippians 4:19 And my **God shall supply all your need** according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

5. **May we all possess a determined resolve to have in the year 2022 the kind of spiritual experience that will prepare us for eternity. As Poet Helen Jackson once wrote:**

Only a night from old to new,
 Only a sleep from night to morn.
 The new is but the old come true,
 Each sunrise sees a New Year born."

6. **We can never reclaim the past. What Mother nature has given, Father Time has taken away. Today is the tomorrow we may have worried about yesterday.**

Determine to now say "I Can"

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

1. **The context of this passage stresses the value of contentment (v. 12).**
 - A. **Paul asserts that he had been initiated into a knowledge of how to bear up.**
 - B. **"Strengthen" is in the present tense, therefore it is continuous action.**
2 Timothy 4:17
 - 1) **Christ empowers us – He gives us the strength we need!**
 - 2) **This comes through the knowledge of God's Word.**

God's might to direct me,
 God's power to protect me,
 God's wisdom for learning,
 God's eye for discerning,
 God's ear for my hearing,
 God's Word for my clearing.

Determine to Now Say "My Needs Will Be Supplied"

Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

1. God created man with three basic needs: Physical, mental and spiritual.

A. Physical: (we are commanded to work for these)

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

1 Thessalonians 4:11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

1) But even in all of our labors, God gives the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

B. Mental: (mental health requires something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to).

- 1) God provides work, family and friends to love, fellowship in worship and the hope of heaven.**

Ephesians 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and **He is the Savior of the body.**

Psalms 122:1 I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

2 Timothy 4:6-9

C. Spiritual:

- 1) A Savior
John 3:16**
- 2) A Divine Guide**

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in **the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,**

- 3) Encouragement
Revelation 22:14**

2. Our needs will be supplied by almighty God. We need to trust in Him and do those things in which we are responsible for.

2 Peter 1:3

If my religion's not all
That it ought to be,
The trouble is not with God,
The trouble's with me.

Determine to Now Say I Will Not Worry

1. Understand that God truly cares for me.

1 Peter 5:7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

2. We need to turn over our worries and cares to God.

Philippians 4:6-7

John 14:1 **Let not your heart be troubled**; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say to you, **do not worry about your life**, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

3. A person can reject worry and fear by:

A. Believing in God's desire and ability to care for us.

1 Peter 5:6-7

B. Learning to be content.

Philippians 4:11-12

C. With God's help, the problems of life can be overcome.

Philippians 4:13

D. Finding strength in prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7

4. An inscription over the mantel of Hine's Head Hotel in England:

"Fear knocked at the door, Faith answered, No one was there."

A. **Fear is faithlessness!**

Determine to Now Say I Will Not Allow Satan to Rule

1. The power of God is stronger!

1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

2. God dwells in us!

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

3. Christ dwells in us!

Romans 8:10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

4. The Holy Spirit dwells in us!

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

5. Be watchful and know that God is with us!

1 Peter 5:8-9

- A. Watchfulness and soberness (1 Peter 5:8).
- B. Knowledge of Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11).
- C. Armed and prepared (Ephesians 6:11).
- D. Standing up for what is right (Ephesians 4:27).
- E. Steadfastness (1 Peter 5:9).

Conclusion

- 1. God calls us through the gospel. That is the only way one can know Him and come to Him.**

2 Thessalonians 2:14 to which **He called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 2. Have you responded to God's call?**

- 3. This is only accomplished through obedience from the heart.**

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.**

