

# 2017

## How Prepare for 2017

1/1/2017

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance. For it is for this we labor and strive, because we have fixed our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of believers.”

(1 Timothy 4:7-10)

### **Personal Means** (Things we practice privately)

#### 1. PRAYER AND WORSHIP

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. (Galatians 5:16-17)

#### 2. BIBLE MEDITATION AND APPLICATION

(How to apply the Bible: Hear, read, study, memorize, meditate and apply)

And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

(1 Thessalonians 2:13)

#### 3. FASTING AND SOLITUDE

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

<sup>2</sup> And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

<sup>3</sup> Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:1-3)

#### 4. STEWARDSHIP AND SIMPLICITY

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

## Relational Means (Things we practice together)

### 5. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

(Ephesians 5:25-27)

### 6. FRIENDSHIPS

<sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)

### 7. ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIPS

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

### 8. SMALL GROUPS (We call these Life Groups)

And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, (Acts 2:46)

### 9. MINISTRY TO GOD'S FAMILY LOCALLY

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

<sup>14</sup> For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14)

### 10. MINISTRY TO GOD'S FAMILY INTERNATIONALLY

Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

<sup>2</sup> that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

<sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

<sup>4</sup> begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

<sup>5</sup> and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5)

### 11. OUTREACH

<sup>6</sup> You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

<sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8)

<sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.

(1 Thessalonians 2:4)

## 12. MISSIONS

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)

## Providential Means (Things God does or allows to happen to us to grow us)

God uses everything to grow us. The effectiveness of these means is based on our response to each. Our response in every circumstance should always include trust, worship, thankfulness, and obedience. "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;" (Romans 8:28-29)

## 13. PLEASURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

## 14. ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.(Romans 5:1-5)

## 15. TEMPTATION

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials (or temptations) knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

(James 1:2-4)

## 16. PERSECUTION

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (1 Peter 1:5-7)

All Scripture NASV