



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

“REAR VIEW MIRROR”

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Rear view mirror is a vital driving aid for safe driving which allows a driver to see what is behind the vehicle without turning one’s head. It is the responsibility of the driver to check through the rear-view mirror to avoid road accidents. As Christians, if we want to grow spiritually, we must carefully check on our daily decisions which might have adverse effects on other people. Despite our experiences in the past, we should not fret nor tarry if the Holy Spirit is telling us to move forward joyfully (Psalm 34:2) in the new year and be ready to inspire people.

1. Forget the past.

Let us re-dedicate ourselves to the Lord and never let the bleak past overshadow a bright future. Jesus will enable us to live fully in the present as we gain wisdom from the past and face the future with courage.

2. Rekindle thankfulness for all God’s benefits.

We need to appreciate everything that God has done for us. God’s pleasure of giving to all of us never ends. Let us give thanks to God for all the blessings, even during the times we were tested, because of the strength and opportunities the problems have given us (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Psalm 100).

3. Press toward the goal

God does not want us to fret because of all the things that did not happen, the anxiety created by past failures and the fear of repeating them in the future. God wants us to face the future full of hope, to have an attitude that will enable us to leave the past, and continue our pursuit toward the goal which is the prize of God’s upward calling in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-14).

4. Do not fear in the new year.

If we are anchored in Jesus, we have nothing to fear (Isaiah 43:1). Only God can predict the future (Jeremiah 29:11).

5. Be filled with hope

We feel discouraged when we think of all those times we seem to have wasted and never to be redeemed. But we should consider the Lord’s promise of restoration in Joel 2:12-27.

5.1 The God of hope declares that we can abound in hope (Romans 15:13). He wants us to face the future with hope because hope fills us with excitement and optimism (Proverbs 5:2; Romans 12:12), produces patience and persistence, and helps us face our future (1 Peter 1:6-7).

5.2 Hope is the product of the presence of our Lord to us (Luke 1:19).

5.3 Hope is the product of the power of our Lord which works within us (Philippians 2:13).

5.4 The God of hope fills us with his wonderful peace (John 15:11).

6. Make noble plans that honor God (Isaiah 32:8).

We should offer ourselves in service to God. What we have learned in the past can now result in a productive service for Him.

Conclusion

We should enter the new year with hope, desires and resolutions that can be the seed of positive change. However, the key to what happens in our lives is in making noble plans that involve thoughts, purposes and efforts to honor God. Our vision and generosity are to invest our time with Him and submit our works according to His plan. As we stand our back to the past year and our face towards the new year, we can have a renewed hope because we are sure of God’s help.

Reflection:

1. Do people see Christ in us?
2. Do we display to others the life of a true Christian?

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