

A Word in SEASON

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DECEMBER 2026

Bishop James D. Corbett



Greetings in the Wonderful Name of Jesus! Lady Sarah and I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas! What a blessing it is to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In the midst of family gatherings and holiday celebrations, let us take time to thank God for sending His Son and to share the joy of knowing Jesus with those around us. Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

As we look back on 2026, our hearts are filled with thanksgiving. We saw a great harvest of souls through our Pakistani crusade and other outreaches. We witnessed a mighty outpouring of God's Spirit and rejoice in the many miracles He performed. Through our Blessing of the City outreach, many received food and other blessings, and we had the privilege of sharing the Word of God. To God be all the glory! As you enjoy time with family and friends this Christmas, make room for prayer, laughter, and words of encouragement. Tell someone what the Lord has done for you this year. As we enter 2027, expect God to crown your year with His goodness. Psalm 65:11 (KJV)Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.

I trust that AWIS continues to bless you. Make it a part of your daily devotion and take a moment each day to put the Word you read into practice. Your testimonies encourage us, and your offerings help us continue publishing AWIS without a subscription charge. Thank you for praying for us, sharing your testimonies, and supporting this ministry. We are grateful to share God's Word with you each day. Lady Sarah and I love and appreciate you.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

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December 1

Managing Your Gift of Time

Eph 5:15-16 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Every morning, God gives us another opportunity to use the gift of time. Unlike money, time cannot be saved for later, borrowed from tomorrow, or recovered once it has passed. Yet we often spend it without considering its value. We make plans for our finances, careers, and responsibilities, but how often do we evaluate the way we spend our days? Being busy does not necessarily mean we are being productive, and being productive does not always mean we are fulfilling God's purpose.

Psa 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Managing time wisely requires intentional choices. Some activities demand our attention without deserving our priority. We can become so consumed with obligations, distractions, and other people's expectations that we neglect prayer, family, personal growth, and the assignments God has entrusted to us. Good stewardship also includes recognizing when to rest. God has not called us to fill every available moment with activity, but to use our time with wisdom and purpose.

Ecc 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for the gift of time and the opportunities each new day brings. Give me wisdom to establish godly priorities, eliminate unnecessary distractions, and use my days in ways that honor You.

Verse of the Day: Col 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Living the Word Today: Examine how you spent your time in the past. Identify activities that consumed more time than they deserved. Prioritize eliminating time wasters, then give time to important matters. Make a deliberate adjustment today to do the important things. Keep first things first.

December 2

The Significance of the 400 Years of Silence

Mal 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Between the ministry of Malachi and the events recorded in the New Testament, approximately 400 years passed without new prophetic revelation preserved in the biblical record. This period is often called the 400 years of silence. Silence did not mean that God had forgotten His people or abandoned His promises. Generations came and went, kingdoms rose and fell, and God's people continued waiting for the promised Messiah. What appeared to be a long silence was not the end of God's redemptive plan.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Jesus came in the fullness of time. During those centuries, political, cultural, and linguistic developments helped create conditions through which the gospel would eventually spread. God's timetable is not determined by human impatience. His purposes continue unfolding even when we cannot recognize what He is doing.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me remain faithful when I cannot see or understand what You are doing.

Verse of the Day: Hab 2:3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

Living the Word Today: We may experience seasons when heaven seems silent, but we should never confuse silence with absence. Continue trusting God's Word, obeying His instructions, and remaining faithful. What God has promised is not made less trustworthy by the length of the wait.

December 3

Examine Yourselves

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

It is often easier to recognize someone else's shortcomings than to acknowledge our own. Scripture calls us to examine our own lives. Spiritual maturity requires an honest evaluation of whether our daily choices reflect the faith we profess.

Matt 7:3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Jesus warned against focusing on the faults of others while ignoring our own. Self-examination is an opportunity to allow God to reveal what needs correction. Are we practicing the forgiveness we encourage others to extend? Are we showing the patience, kindness, honesty, and humility we expect from those around us?

Psa 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

True self-examination requires humility because we do not always recognize our own blind spots. We need God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to reveal what we may have justified, ignored, or allowed to become normal. The purpose is not condemnation but transformation. When God reveals an area that needs attention, respond with repentance and a willingness to change. Growth begins when we stop defending everything about ourselves and allow God to work on what still needs improvement.

Prayer Focus: Father, give me the humility and courage to examine my heart honestly.

Verse of the Day: Lam 3:40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Living the Word Today: Set aside a few quiet minutes for honest self-examination. Ask yourself, “Am I becoming more like Christ, or have I become comfortable with attitudes and behaviors I know need to change?” Make any necessary adjustments.

December 4

The Weight of the Name JESUS

Phil 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Some names carry influence because of wealth, position, reputation, or authority. But no name carries the eternal significance of the name JESUS. His name identifies the Son of God, our Savior and Lord, whose authority extends beyond every earthly kingdom and human title. Scripture declares that every knee will bow and every tongue will acknowledge His lordship. Do our lives reflect the honor we say we give Him.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

The significance of Jesus' name is inseparable from who He is and what He accomplished. Through His death and resurrection, salvation became available to those who believe in Him. His name is not a magical phrase that produces results simply because it is spoken. When we pray in Jesus' name, we acknowledge His authority and our dependence upon Him. When we proclaim His name, we proclaim the One who has power to forgive sins, transform lives, and reconcile humanity to God.

Col 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for the precious and powerful name of Jesus.

Verse of the Day: Matt 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Living the Word Today: If we truly understand the weight of His name, we will be careful how we represent Him. Our words, decisions, relationships, and conduct should reflect the character of the One whose name we carry. Let us never become so familiar with the name JESUS that we lose our reverence for the Savior behind it.

December 5

Take Authority!

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Too often, believers live as though we are powerless against the spiritual battles we face. We allow fear, temptation, discouragement, and the enemy's accusations to influence our decisions and weaken our confidence. Yet Jesus gave His disciples authority over the power of the enemy. That authority was rooted in their relationship with Him. As followers of Christ, we must remember that we are not called to surrender to everything that challenges our faith.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Notice the order of this instruction. Before we are told to resist the devil, we are told to submit ourselves to God. Spiritual authority begins with obedience to God's Word and dependence upon His power. We exercise spiritual authority when we reject temptation, stand firmly on biblical truth, refuse to entertain the enemy's lies, and remain faithful when our circumstances try to shake us.

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

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for the authority and strength available through Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: 2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Living the Word Today: God has equipped us with His Word, prayer, faith, righteousness, and the strength to stand against the wiles of the enemy. Walk in the authority of God’s Word.

December 6

Inquire of the Lord

1 Sam 30:8 And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

When David returned to Ziklag and discovered that the Amalekites had taken the women, children, and possessions, he faced a devastating situation. His men were distressed, and some even spoke of stoning him. David had every reason to react emotionally, yet before pursuing the enemy, he inquired of the Lord. He did not allow the urgency of the crisis to replace his need for divine direction. His example reminds us that even when the next step seems obvious, seeking God should remain our priority.

1 Chr 14:14 Therefore David enquired again of God; and God said unto him, Go not up after them; turn away from them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

On another occasion, David again sought God's direction concerning an enemy. This time, God's instructions were different. What worked in one battle was not necessarily the strategy for the next. We sometimes assume that because God directed us a certain way before, we should automatically repeat the same approach. But yesterday's instructions do not eliminate the need for today's prayer.

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Prayer Focus: Father, teach me to seek Your wisdom before making decisions or responding to difficult situations.

Verse of the Day: Ps 25:4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

Living the Word Today: Every season presents circumstances that require fresh wisdom and discernment. Before making major decisions, responding to conflict, accepting opportunities, or pursuing something that appears promising, seek God through prayer and His Word.

December 7

The Urgent Need to Spread the Gospel

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Jesus commissioned His followers to carry the good news of salvation into the world. Yet it is possible to become so occupied with activities, personal responsibilities, and everyday concerns that we lose sight of the people who still need to hear about Christ. Every day, people around us are searching for hope, forgiveness, purpose, and answers that can ultimately be found in Him.

Rom 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

People need an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel. We cannot assume that everyone understands who Jesus is or what His death and resurrection mean. Someone may attend church regularly and still need a clear explanation of salvation. Others may never enter a church building unless someone first reaches them with the love and message of Christ.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

We cannot force anyone to believe, but we can faithfully share the truth, demonstrate Christ's love, pray for the lost, and invite others to know Him. The gospel is too important to keep to ourselves, and tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

Prayer Focus: Father, give me a greater burden for those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Verse of the Day: Matt 9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Living the Word Today: Identify those who need to hear the gospel or need to be encouraged to grow in faith. Pray specifically for them. Look for opportunities to share your testimony, explain the message of salvation, or personally invite them to church.

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December 8

Uncomfortable Truth

2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Everyone enjoys hearing messages about blessings, breakthroughs, favor, and God's promises. These are important biblical truths, but they are not the entire gospel. Scripture also speaks about repentance, holiness, obedience, forgiveness, self-denial, and the consequences of sin. Sometimes the message we most need to hear is the one that makes us uncomfortable. God's Word was never intended to affirm our desires. It was given to reveal truth and transform our lives.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Paul instructed Timothy to preach the Word faithfully, even when correction was necessary. Biblical preaching should encourage the discouraged, comfort the hurting, and strengthen believers, but it must also confront attitudes and behaviors that contradict God's instructions. We should be cautious when we only want messages that make us feel good while resisting those that challenge us to change.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Prayer Focus: Father, give me a heart that welcomes the whole counsel of Your Word, including truths that challenge my attitudes and behavior.

Verse of the Day: Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Living the Word Today: Truth is not always comfortable, but it is necessary for spiritual freedom and growth. We cannot experience genuine transformation while refusing to acknowledge what needs to change.

December 9

Don’t Kick Against the Prick

Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

Before his conversion, Saul was determined to persecute the followers of Jesus Christ. He believed he was doing what was right, but he was actually opposing the very God he thought he was serving. When Jesus confronted him on the road to Damascus, He used an expression describing an animal kicking against a sharp instrument used to guide it. The harder the animal resisted, the more pain it caused itself. Sometimes our greatest struggle is not what God is asking us to do, but our determination to resist His direction.

Prov 29:1 He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

God may use His Word, godly counsel, circumstances, or the conviction of the Holy Spirit to reveal where we need to change. Yet pride, fear, stubbornness, or attachment to our own plans can cause us to resist correction. We may continue defending attitudes, relationships, habits, or decisions that are clearly leading us away from obedience. Resistance does not make God's truth disappear. It often prolongs unnecessary struggle and prevents us from experiencing the growth that comes through surrender. Saul's encounter with Jesus changed the direction of his life because he eventually responded to the One he had been opposing.

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Prayer Focus: Father, reveal any area of my life where I have been resisting Your Word or direction.

Verse of the Day: Prov 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

Living the Word Today: There is a difference between standing firm against the enemy and stubbornly resisting God. We must learn to recognize which one we are doing. Accept God’s will for your life.

December 10

Accept Your God-Given Righteousness

2 Cor 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Many believers have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior but continue to describe themselves primarily by their past mistakes, failures, and weaknesses. They repeatedly say they are unworthy, defeated, or incapable of living differently. Our righteousness before God comes through Jesus Christ, not through our ability to earn it. When we place our faith in Him, our standing before God changes. We must learn to see ourselves through the truth of His Word rather than allowing our past to define our identity.

Prov 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Our words matter because they can reinforce what we believe about ourselves and influence how we live. If we continually speak as though we are hopeless, powerless, or permanently bound by our mistakes, those thoughts can shape our expectations and decisions. This does not mean our words magically create reality or that speaking positively eliminates life's difficulties. It means we should bring our words into agreement with God's truth. Instead of declaring that we will never change, we can acknowledge that through Christ, spiritual growth and transformation are possible.

Rom 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for the righteousness made available to me through Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Living the Word Today: Accepting our righteousness in Christ is a reason to live differently. Our confession of faith should be supported by obedience, repentance, and a growing commitment to God's Word.

December 11

A Merry Heart

Prov 17:22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

God understands the connection between the condition of our hearts and our overall well-being. A merry heart does not mean we are unaware of life's difficulties or pretend that everything is going well. Rather, it reflects an inward joy that is not entirely dependent upon outward circumstances. Sometimes we become so consumed with responsibilities and concerns that we forget to enjoy the blessings God has already given us. Laughter, gratitude, and moments of genuine happiness should have a place in the believer's life.

Prov 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.

Two people can experience similar circumstances yet approach life with very different attitudes. A merry heart recognizes reasons to rejoice even when everything is not perfect. This does not mean ignoring grief or denying legitimate concerns. It means refusing to let our troubles become the only things worthy of our attention. When we intentionally acknowledge God's goodness, we make room for joy alongside life's challenges.

Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.
Our greatest source of joy is our relationship with the Lord. We do not have to postpone rejoicing until every problem is resolved or every prayer is answered. There is something to celebrate today, even if it is simply the assurance of God's love and faithfulness.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me cultivate a merry heart that recognizes Your goodness despite life's challenges.

Verse of the Day: Psa 126:3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

Living the Word Today: Intentionally make room for something that brings wholesome joy into your life today. Spend time laughing, expressing gratitude, or enjoying fellowship with someone without allowing your concerns to dominate the conversation.

December 12

Be Ye Perfect

Matt 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

When Jesus instructed His followers to be perfect, He was not suggesting that we could achieve sinless perfection through human effort. In the context of His teaching, He was calling us toward spiritual maturity and a love that reflects the character of our heavenly Father. The word translated *perfect* carries the idea of completeness or maturity. Jesus had just challenged His listeners to love not only those who loved them but also their enemies. God's standard calls us beyond selective kindness and convenient obedience.

Phil 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Even the Apostle Paul acknowledged that he had not yet arrived at complete spiritual maturity. Yet he refused to become comfortable with remaining where he was. There is a difference between recognizing that we are still growing and using our imperfections as an excuse to stop growing. God does not expect us to transform ourselves through willpower alone, but He does call us to cooperate with His work in our lives through faith, repentance, obedience, and continued dependence upon Him.

Jas 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me understand Your call to spiritual maturity and refuse to become comfortable with areas where I need to grow. Continue developing Your character in me so that my love, attitudes, and actions increasingly reflect Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Living the Word Today: Spiritual maturity develops as we allow God to work through our experiences, challenges, and daily choices. The Lord is perfecting you. In other words, He is growing you up. Endure His chastening.

December 13

Fear Is Our Enemy

2 Tim 1:7-8 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Fear is one of the greatest obstacles that can keep believers from sharing the gospel. We may fear rejection, embarrassment, confrontation, or not knowing how to answer someone's questions. Sometimes we remain silent because we do not want to offend anyone or appear overly religious. We cannot allow concern about people's reactions to become more important than our responsibility to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

The early believers faced genuine threats because of their faith, yet their response was to pray for boldness. They did not ask God to remove every uncomfortable situation before they would speak. They asked Him for the courage to remain faithful despite opposition.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The power of the gospel does not depend upon our eloquence, popularity, or ability to persuade everyone.

Prayer Focus: Father, forgive me for the times fear has kept me silent about Jesus Christ. Give me boldness, wisdom, and compassion to share the gospel faithfully, trusting You with the outcome.

Verse of the Day: Prov 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Living the Word Today: Boldness does not mean being argumentative, insensitive, or disrespectful. It means being willing to speak the truth of God's Word with confidence, compassion, and love, even when doing so feels uncomfortable. We walk by faith.

December 14

Pray in Alignment with the Will of God

1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Prayer is one of the greatest privileges we have as believers, but effective prayer involves more than presenting God with a list of things we want. Scripture teaches us to pray according to His will. Sometimes we become so focused on getting God to agree with our plans that we forget to ask whether our plans agree with His purpose. Prayer should be an opportunity to align our desires with what He knows is best.

Jas 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Our motives matter when we pray. We may ask for something that appears good, yet our reasons for wanting it may be rooted in pride, selfish ambition, impatience, or a desire to satisfy ourselves. This is why we must examine not only what we are asking God to do but also why we are asking. Praying according to God's will requires humility and a willingness to accept His wisdom over our preferences. Sometimes the greatest answer to prayer is a changed heart rather than a changed circumstance.

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Jesus demonstrated perfect submission to the Father's will in the Garden of Gethsemane. He honestly expressed His desire while remaining surrendered to God's purpose. We can approach prayer with that same honesty and trust.

Prayer Focus: Father, teach me to pray according to Your will rather than allowing my desires to determine my expectations.

Verse of the Day: Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Living the Word Today: Pray boldly, believe God’s Word, and remain willing to follow His direction, even when you don’t see the manifestation. Continue in faith.

December 15

Make Winning Souls Your Goal

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

It is possible to become so busy doing the work of ministry that we lose sight of why the ministry exists. We can become focused on attendance numbers, recognition, impressive programs, social media engagement, and personal accomplishments while giving little attention to whether people are actually coming to Christ. None of these things are necessarily wrong, but they must never become more important than the mission Jesus gave us. Christ did not come to build a reputation or gather admirers. He came to seek and save the lost. If reaching souls is central to His mission, it should remain central to ours.

1 Cor 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

Ministry requires a willingness to put the spiritual needs of others ahead of personal preferences. We should examine our motives with that same seriousness. Are we serving because we genuinely want people to know Jesus, or because we enjoy being seen, praised, or considered important?

Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Winning souls requires prayer, compassion, intentional conversations, faithful teaching, and a willingness to reach people outside our familiar circles. Every person represents a soul with eternal significance.

Prayer Focus: Father, examine my motives and remove anything that causes me to seek recognition or personal gain above Your purpose.

Verse of the Day: Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Living the Word Today: Ministry success should never be measured solely by how many people applaud us, but also by our faithfulness in pointing people toward Jesus Christ. When souls become our priority, our decisions, sacrifices, and definition of success begin to change.

December 16

Don't Be Part of the Falling Away

2 Thess 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

The Bible warns of a falling away, a departure from the truth that should cause every believer to examine the condition of their own faith. It is easy to look at changes in society, declining respect for biblical principles, or the behavior of others and conclude that we are witnessing spiritual decline. However, the more important question is whether we are personally remaining faithful to God. Falling away does not always begin with an open rejection of Christ. Sometimes it begins quietly, when prayer becomes optional, Scripture loses its authority in our decisions, and obedience is replaced by convenience.

1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Spiritual deception is dangerous because it does not always appear obviously wrong. False teaching can sound encouraging, reasonable, and even spiritual while gradually leading people away from biblical truth. We must be careful not to embrace teachings simply because they are popular, emotionally appealing, or delivered by someone we admire. Our loyalty must remain with Jesus Christ and His Word, not personalities, traditions, or cultural trends.

Heb 3:12-13 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God**.** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Prayer Focus: Father, strengthen my faith and protect my heart from deception, compromise, and spiritual complacency.

Verse of the Day: Matt 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Living the Word Today: Remaining faithful requires intentional spiritual vigilance. We must guard our hearts, remain rooted in sound doctrine, maintain fellowship with other believers, and respond quickly when the Holy Spirit convicts us.

December 17

Building on a Firm Foundation

1 Cor 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Every building depends upon the strength of its foundation, but a strong foundation does not automatically guarantee a well-constructed building. The materials, workmanship, and attention given to what is built upon it also matter. As believers, Jesus Christ is our firm foundation, but we must consider what we are building upon Him. Every decision, conversation, relationship, and act of obedience contributes something to the life we are constructing. The question is not simply whether we claim Christ as our foundation, but whether the life taking shape above that foundation reflects Him.

1 Cor 3:12-13 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble**;** Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

The quality of our work matters to God. Some things we invest our time and energy in may appear impressive but have little lasting spiritual value. We can build reputations without building character, accumulate possessions without growing in generosity, and become busy with religious activities while neglecting our relationship with God.

Matt 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for giving me a firm foundation in Jesus Christ. Give me wisdom to build a life of obedience, integrity, and lasting spiritual value that brings glory to Your name.

Verse of the Day: Col 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Living the Word Today: Each new brick represents an opportunity to build with something enduring, such as faithfulness, integrity, compassion, sound doctrine, and service. We should regularly examine whether our efforts are producing something that will withstand God's examination.

December 18

An Obedient Heart Draws People to Christ

Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

There is something compelling about a person whose life consistently reflects obedience to God. People may not immediately understand their faith, but they often notice their integrity, compassion, humility, and willingness to do what is right when it is inconvenient. An obedient heart does not need to demand attention because its influence is demonstrated through actions. Jesus taught that our good works should point people toward our heavenly Father rather than draw admiration to ourselves. When our lives agree with the faith we profess, we become living testimonies of God's transforming power.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

True obedience begins with love for God, not a desire to impress people or earn His acceptance. It is possible to perform religious activities while harboring attitudes that contradict the very Word we claim to follow. Genuine obedience reaches beyond public behavior into private decisions, conversations, motives, and relationships.

1 Pet 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Prayer Focus: Father, develop in me a heart that obeys You out of genuine love rather than a desire for recognition. Let my conduct reflect Your character and draw others toward the truth and salvation found in Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Living the Word Today: The greatest influence we can have is not making people admire us, but helping them recognize the goodness of the God we serve. Obedience creates credibility for our witness and opens opportunities to share the gospel.

December 19

The First Christmas Wasn't Comfortable

Luke 2:7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Christmas is often associated with comfort, beautiful decorations, and joyful gatherings. Yet the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth were far from luxurious. Mary gave birth away from home, and the newborn Savior was laid in a manger. His humble arrival reminds us that God's greatest purposes do not depend upon ideal circumstances.

Phil 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Jesus willingly entered the limitations of human life, demonstrating extraordinary humility and love. Sometimes we assume that following God's will should make life easier. Yet Mary and Joseph's experience reminds us that obedience does not guarantee comfort. We can be walking in God's purpose while still facing challenges, uncertainty, and sacrifice.

2 Cor 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

The beauty of Christmas is found not in the comfort of the celebration, but in the sacrifice behind the gift. Do not allow financial limitations, imperfect circumstances, or unmet expectations to steal your joy. The first Christmas was not comfortable, but it was filled with divine purpose. God's greatest gift arrived in humility.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for sending Jesus Christ to accomplish Your purpose of salvation.

Verse of the Day: Matt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Living the Word Today: Release the expectations that are creating unnecessary stress this Christmas. Honor Christ through gratitude or generosity, remembering that His presence matters more than perfect circumstances.

December 20

Faith to Persevere

Matt 2:1-2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The wise men understood that discovering something significant was only the beginning. After seeing the star, they left their homeland in search of the newborn King. They were willing to leave familiar surroundings because finding Jesus mattered more than remaining comfortable. Their example raises an important question: How much are we willing to invest in pursuing a deeper relationship with Christ?

Matt 2:9-10 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

When the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, they had not yet reached their destination. They sought information, received direction, and resumed their journey. They did not confuse a stopping point with the fulfillment of their purpose. Likewise, we must recognize that spiritual growth involves seasons of learning, waiting, and moving forward. An unanswered question or unexpected obstacle does not mean we should abandon what God has called us to do. Sometimes the next step becomes clear only after we have faithfully taken the previous one.

Prayer Focus: Father, give me the patience and determination to remain faithful when my spiritual journey becomes challenging.

Verse of the Day: Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Living the Word Today: Following Christ requires us to lay aside whatever hinders our progress and remain focused on Him. Do not allow temporary discomfort to cause you to abandon something of eternal significance.

December 21

Faith to Obey God

Matt 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

The wise men arrived in Jerusalem seeking the newborn King, but their announcement troubled Herod and the city. While they eagerly searched for Jesus, those familiar with the Scriptures did not appear to share their enthusiasm. Their contrasting responses remind us that the attitudes of influential people do not always reflect God's truth. We must be careful not to allow the doubt, indifference, or opposition of others to weaken our faith.

Matt 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Herod's words sounded supportive, but his intentions were deceptive. The wise men continued their journey without allowing the atmosphere in Jerusalem to distract them from their purpose. Likewise, we must learn to distinguish between godly counsel and human influence that could lead us away from obedience. A person's title or position does not automatically make their direction consistent with God's will.

Matt 2:12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

The wise men demonstrated sure faith by obeying God's warning rather than returning to Herod. Their example teaches us that genuine faith requires both discernment and obedience.

Prayer Focus: Father, strengthen my faith so that I remain confident in Your Word despite opposition or discouragement.

Verse of the Day: Prov 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Living the Word Today: We should respect leadership while remembering that God's Word remains our highest authority. Never allow another person's opposition, influence, or approval to become more important than following Christ.

December 22

The Miracle Wasn't Just That He Was Born

Matt 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The birth of Jesus Christ was miraculous, but the wonder of Christmas extends far beyond a baby being born in Bethlehem. The greater miracle is *who* was born and *why* He came. God entered human history through His Son, fulfilling His promise to bring salvation to mankind. Jesus was not simply another child with an extraordinary beginning. He was Emmanuel, God with us. His arrival revealed the depth of God's love and His determination to redeem a fallen world.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The eternal Word became flesh and lived among humanity. Jesus experienced human life, yet remained without sin. He came to reveal the Father, teach the truth, and ultimately give His life for our salvation.

1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

The greatest significance of Christmas is that the Savior came to rescue us from sin. His birth points us toward His sacrifice, resurrection, and the promise of eternal life. Decorations will eventually come down, gifts will be put away, and celebrations will end, but the salvation Jesus offers has eternal value. The miracle was not simply that He was born. It was that He came for us.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for the miraculous gift of Jesus Christ and the salvation made possible through Him.

Verse of the Day: John 3:16 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.

Living the Word Today: As we celebrate Jesus' birth let's remember the purpose of His coming. The manger was the beginning of His earthly mission, not the completion of it. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to die so we could live.

December 23

Before There Was a Silent Night, There Was a Faithful God

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Long before Mary held Jesus in her arms, God had already promised the coming Messiah. Christ's birth was not an unexpected solution to humanity's sin but the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. While generations waited, His promise remained unchanged. Christmas reminds us that God's faithfulness does not begin when we see results. He remains faithful even when nothing appears to be happening.

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Jesus arrived at God's appointed time, not according to human expectations. Generations awaited the Messiah, yet the passing years never diminished God's commitment. Sometimes we mistake waiting for abandonment or assume that delays mean God has forgotten us. Bethlehem reminds us that God's timing is purposeful, even when we do not understand it.

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Before the shepherds heard the announcement or the wise men followed the star, God had already established His purpose. The birth of Jesus demonstrates that His promises are trustworthy. As we celebrate Christmas, remember that the God who faithfully sent our Savior remains faithful today. Circumstances change, but His character never does.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for demonstrating Your faithfulness through Jesus Christ. Help me trust Your Word and Your timing, even when I cannot see what You are doing.

Verse of the Day: Lam 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Living the Word Today: Recall a time when God demonstrated His faithfulness in your life. Let that memory strengthen your trust in Him concerning something you are currently waiting for.

December 24

The Babe Leaped in Her Womb

Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

When Mary visited Elisabeth, something extraordinary happened. The baby in Elisabeth's womb leaped, and she was filled with the Holy Ghost. This was more than a family reunion; it was a moment connected to God's unfolding plan of salvation. Their encounter reminds us that recognizing God's presence and work should awaken joy and gratitude within us. Have we become so familiar with the things of God that we have lost our excitement about Jesus?

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Elisabeth recognized the significance of Mary's visit and described her baby's movement as a leap for joy. Her response reminds us that knowing Christ should produce more than religious routine. Our relationship with Him should strengthen our faith, inspire gratitude, and give us reasons to rejoice even during difficult seasons.

Ps 34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

Mary and Elisabeth shared a joyful encounter centered on God's promises. Likewise, our fellowship with other believers should encourage faith and magnify the Lord. When we come together, let our conversations and worship reflect genuine excitement about what God is doing.

Prayer Focus: Father, renew my joy in knowing Jesus and keep me from becoming indifferent to Your goodness. Let my fellowship with others strengthen our faith and inspire sincere worship.

Verse of the Day: Ps 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Living the Word Today: Consider whether your relationship with Christ still brings you genuine joy. Share a testimony of God's goodness with someone today and encourage them to rejoice with you.



The Gift That Came Looking for Us

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Most gifts require someone to come and receive them, but the greatest gift humanity has ever been offered came looking for us. Jesus did not wait for mankind to become righteous enough to deserve salvation. He came into a world broken by sin, seeking those who were lost and offering reconciliation with God. The miracle of Christmas is that God took the initiative to rescue people who could never save themselves.

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God's love was demonstrated before we ever responded to Him. We did not have to earn His attention, prove our worthiness, or correct every mistake before Christ came to redeem us. His sacrifice reveals a love that reaches beyond our failures and offers us an opportunity for a new life. However, receiving this gift requires a personal response of faith. We must not confuse knowing the Christmas story with accepting the Savior at the center of it.

John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for loving us enough to send Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

Verse of the Day: 2 Cor 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

Living the Word Today: Christmas reminds us that God's purpose in sending Jesus was salvation. While we celebrate by exchanging presents, gathering with loved ones, and expressing generosity, remember the extraordinary gift that made eternal life possible. Merry Christmas!

December 26

The Wise Men Followed the Star

Matt 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

The wise men did more than notice an extraordinary star in the sky. They recognized its significance and took action, undertaking a journey to seek the newborn King. They could have remained where they were, discussing the star's beauty and wondering what it meant. Instead, what they observed prompted them to pursue something greater. Their example challenges us to consider how often we admire the things of God without responding to what He is revealing. It is possible to appreciate an inspiring sermon, enjoy beautiful worship, or recognize biblical truth while never allowing any of it to change the direction of our lives.

Matt 2:9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

The star served a purpose. It directed the wise men toward Jesus. Likewise, the blessings, opportunities, and spiritual instruction we receive should ultimately lead us into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Matt 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me move beyond simply admiring Your Word and recognizing Your goodness to actively responding in faith and obedience.

Verse of the Day: Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Living the Word Today: Think about a sermon, Scripture, or spiritual lesson that recently inspired you, but you have not yet changed your actions. Take a big step of obedience today and make the changes you need to make. Remember that the purpose of receiving God's truth is not merely to admire it, but to follow where it leads. Be a doer of the Word of God. Let the Word of God prevail in your life.

December 27

The Wise Men Immediately Rejoiced and Worshipped in the Presence of Jesus

Matt 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

The wise men were overjoyed when the star led them to Jesus, the King they had traveled so far to worship. Their response challenges us to examine our own enthusiasm for Christ. We readily celebrate personal accomplishments and answered prayers, but do we show that same excitement about spending time in God's presence?

Matt 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

When the wise men saw Jesus, they fell down and worshipped Him. Their response was immediate, sincere, and accompanied by giving. They recognized His worthiness without needing encouragement from anyone else. We should approach God with that same reverence, never allowing familiarity or routine to diminish our appreciation for His presence.

Ps 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Prayer Focus: Father, renew my joy and reverence for Your presence. Help me worship You sincerely and never take the privilege of knowing You for granted.

Verse of the Day: Ps 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Living the Word Today: Worship should not depend upon our circumstances or emotions. Whether gathered in church or spending time alone with God, we have reason to rejoice simply because of who He is. The wise men remind us that Jesus Himself is worthy of our greatest celebration.

December 28

The Wise Men Worshipped with Gifts – Not Empty-Hearted Adoration

Matt 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men did not come before Jesus with admiration alone. Their worship was accompanied by gifts that demonstrated the value they placed upon the One they had traveled to see. They offered something meaningful rather than simply expressing appreciation with words. Do we offer God only songs, prayers, and declarations of love, or does our worship include something of ourselves?

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

God is not seeking expensive gifts or impressive displays of devotion. He desires hearts that are fully surrendered to Him. Our obedience, time, talents, resources, and willingness to serve can all become expressions of genuine worship. It is possible to praise God with our lips while withholding areas of our lives from His authority. True worship should extend beyond what we say into how we live.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me offer You more than words of praise by surrendering my heart, time, and abilities to Your service.

Verse of the Day: Heb 13:15-16 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Living the Word Today: The wise men's gifts remind us that worship involves both reverence and response. Our praise should be accompanied by generosity, compassion, and actions that honor God. We cannot purchase His favor through what we give, but we can demonstrate our gratitude through what we willingly surrender. The greatest gift we can bring to Christ is a life devoted to His will. Boldly confess, “Lord, I give you me.”

December 29

The Manger Was Never the Final Destination

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Christmas often centers on the baby lying in a manger, but the angel announced more than the birth of a child. He proclaimed the arrival of a Savior. Jesus came with a divine purpose that extended far beyond Bethlehem. The manger marked the beginning of His earthly life, not the completion of His mission.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Jesus grew, taught, healed, and ultimately gave His life for our sins. His journey led from the manger to the cross, where He paid the price for our redemption. We must not become so captivated by the beauty of His birth that we overlook the sacrifice that made our salvation possible.

1 Cor 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

The story does not end at the cross. Jesus rose again, securing victory over death and offering eternal life to those who believe. The manger points us toward the cross and the empty tomb. Christmas celebrates His arrival, but its greatest significance is found in the salvation He came to provide.

Prayer Focus: Father, thank You for sending Jesus Christ to accomplish Your plan of salvation. Help me appreciate His birth, sacrifice, and resurrection with a grateful heart.

Verse of the Day: John 3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

Living the Word Today: Share the complete story of Jesus with someone that He was born not simply to live among us, but to die and rise again for our salvation. Preach Christ to the world.

December 30

Don't Ask God to Bless What He Told You to Leave Behind

Gen 19:26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

When God delivered Lot and his family from Sodom, they were instructed not to look back. Yet Lot's wife turned toward the place she had been commanded to leave. Walking away from something does not always mean we have released it in our hearts. Sometimes we ask God to lead us forward while secretly hoping He will restore what He has told us to surrender.

Isa 43:18-19 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Letting go can be difficult, especially when something once brought happiness or security. However, familiarity does not always mean something is beneficial, and emotional attachment does not guarantee God's approval. We must distinguish between what we want and what God has directed. When His Word clearly calls us away from something, we should not seek reasons to remain attached.

Phil 3:13 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,

Moving forward requires redirecting our hearts toward God's purpose. Repeatedly revisiting what we have surrendered can weaken our resolve and distract us from what lies ahead.

Prayer Focus: Father, give me the courage to release anything that conflicts with Your will. Help me surrender my attachments and move forward in faith and obedience.

Verse of the Day: Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Living the Word Today: If God has clearly directed you to release something, stop asking Him to make room for it in your future. Trust Him enough to obey. Unhook from the pass so you can walk into your future without yokes of bondage. Walk with a fresh anointing

December 31

Before You Make Another Resolution, Make an Examination

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

As a new year approaches, many people begin making resolutions about what they want to accomplish, change, or acquire. We set goals for our finances, health, careers, and personal lives, but how often do we examine our spiritual condition? Before deciding what we want to achieve next year, we should honestly evaluate how we have lived this year. Have we grown closer to God, or have we simply become busier? Have our attitudes, priorities, and decisions reflected the faith we profess?

Lam 3:40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Self-examination means allowing God's Word to reveal where we have become complacent, disobedient, or distracted. Sometimes the change we need most is not a new opportunity but a corrected attitude, restored relationship, or renewed commitment to prayer and obedience. A resolution may change our schedule, but genuine repentance can change the direction of our lives.

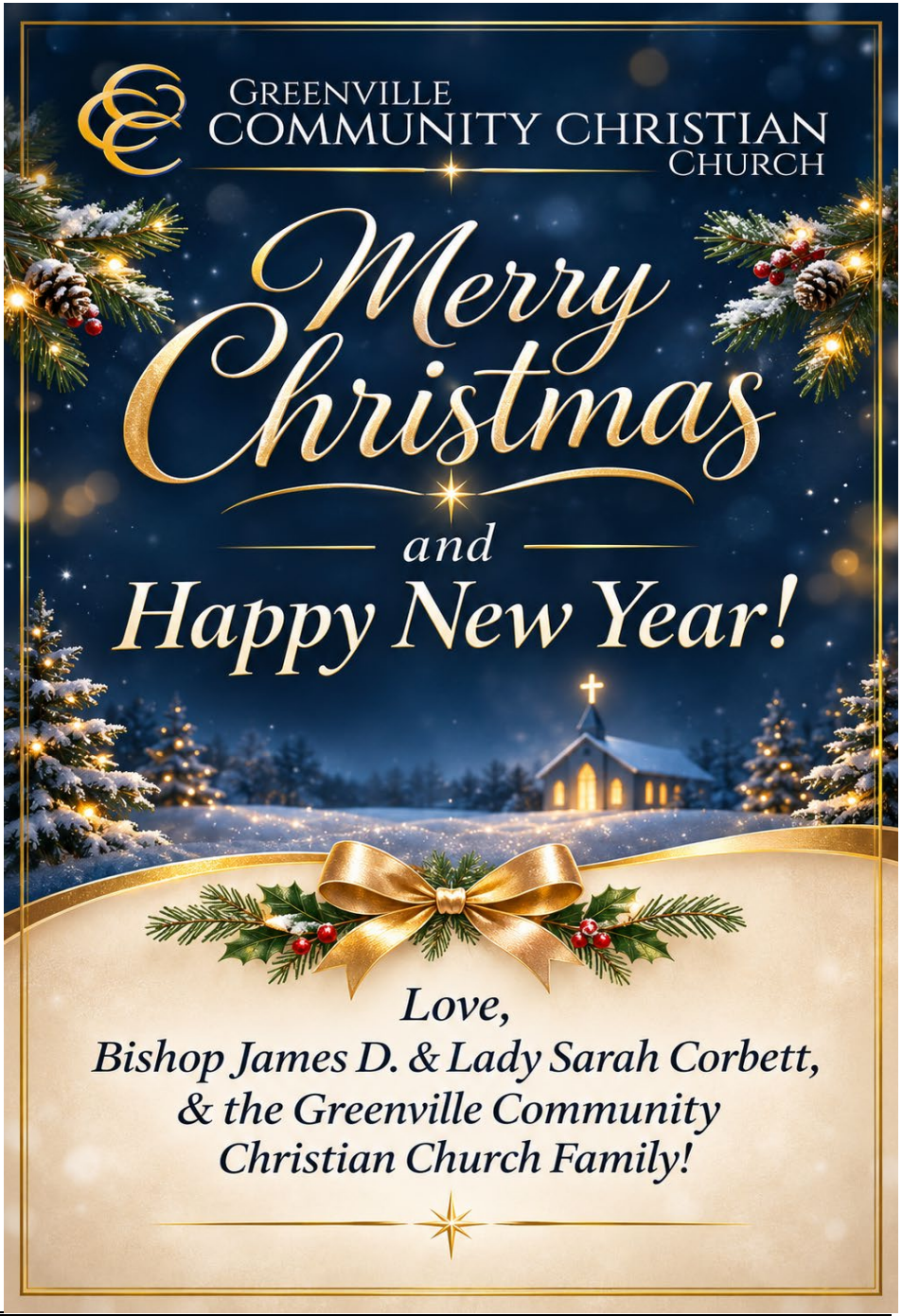
Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

There is nothing wrong with setting goals, but spiritual growth should never be an afterthought. Before asking God to bless another year of plans, invite Him to examine the heart behind those plans. Be willing to acknowledge what needs to change and take responsibility for making those changes.

Prayer Focus: Father, help me honestly examine my heart, motives, and spiritual condition before entering another year.

Verse of the Day: Hag 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Living the Word Today: A new calendar does not automatically produce a new life. Lasting transformation begins when we respond to God's truth with humility and obedience.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