

New Years Spiritual Check-Up from the Neck-Up

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Foundation Scripture:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV) *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds; ⁵ we cast down arguments, imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God; we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.*

We are called to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

Another scripture that ties in and is closely linked to this is:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

1. Do you have any idols in your life?

Examples of idols can include:

- Self
- Security
- Approval
- Relationships
- Success
- Wealth
- Health
- Food
- Intellect
- Comfort

Matthew 3:10 (ESV) *Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*

Idols and addictions are very similar – and I will use them interchangeably this morning.

Definition: Both an idol (which can be a person, object, idea, career, or substance) and an addiction become the single most important thing in a person's life, demanding significant time, energy, and resources.

- Source of Meaning
- Enslavement
- Destructive Cycle
- Disrupted Priorities

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV) *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? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

Ephesians 5:11 (NIV) *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*

When something becomes an idol or an addiction, I believe it becomes a fruitless deed of darkness and needs to be exposed.

Romans 8:13 and Galatians 5:24 says we should "Put to death the works of the flesh" meaning we, as Christians should actively mortify sinful desires and actions, killing off tendencies like immorality, idolatry, and envy, by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit rather than our own sinful nature, to live a life of spiritual vitality and freedom in Christ. It's a call to fight against worldly temptations and align one's life with God's will, resulting in spiritual life rather than death.

Pride can be considered a form of idolatry because it places self, one's own desires, or achievements in the place of God, making them the ultimate focus of worship, trust, and allegiance, effectively displacing God from the centre of one's heart.

1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV) *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.*

James 4:10 (NKJV) *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.*

Proverbs 8:13b (NIV) I hate pride and arrogance, evil behaviour and perverse speech.

Proverbs 16:5a (NIV) The Lord detests all the proud of heart.

2. Is Church attendance a priority for you?

Hebrew 10:25 (NKJV) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We are a Purpose Driven Church

The Five Purposes being:

1. Worship - Planned for God's Pleasure
2. Fellowship - Formed for God's Family
3. Discipleship - Created to Become Like Christ
4. Ministry - Shaped for Serving God
5. Evangelism - Made for a Mission

To participate in the 5 purposes – we need to be characterised by being in Church (consistently)

Don't make Church about preferences and distractions – make it about God.

Proverbs 27:17a (NKJV) As iron sharpens iron ...

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV) So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

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

3. Servanthood

Where are you serving in Church?

Matthew 20:28 (NKJV) Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Matthew 23:11 (NKJV) *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.*

John 13:1-5

The significance of Jesus washing the disciples' feet in John 13

Firstly, the act of washing the feet serves as a picture of Jesus' ultimate mission: to serve humanity through His humble death on a cross, a death that washes us clean from all sin. Secondly, Jesus intends His demonstration of humility to serve as an example to His disciples (and anyone who reads the passage – like us).

Throughout the Bible we can see many mighty men and women of God who served their generation

- Jesus
- Ruth
- Moses
- Paul
- Esther
- David
- Barnabas
- Joseph

These individuals exemplify service through their actions

God is not looking for perfect people to serve – rather imperfect ones like you and me.

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Galatians 5:13 (NIV) *You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.*

Isaiah 6:8 (NIV) *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!*

Are you a sent one? Will you say send me!