

Aiming for a Better New Year

An intelligent person aims at wise action, but a fool starts off in many directions.
Proverbs 17:24 (Good News Bible)

Three keys that will help believers create a better new year.

● Key #1: CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE.

- Biggest attitude mistake: assuming a victim mentality
- Our reaction to an event is far more important than the event itself.

"Brace yourself like a man; . . ." Job 38:3a (New International Version)

"Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?" Job 40:2a (NIV)

Key Your Attitude Right

- A grateful and thankful attitude (Hebrews 12:28)
- A humble attitude (1 Peter 3:8)
- An attitude of contentment. (2 Corinthians 12:10; Philippians 4:11)
- Our attitude begins to sour when we lose an eternal perspective.

For God . . . made his light shine in our hearts . . . ⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay . . . ¹⁴ . . . we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence . . .

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 14, 16-18 (NIV)

● Key #2: TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS.

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. ⁵For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Galatians 6:4-5 (New Living Translation)

- In life, there are excusers and there are choosers.
- Part of being able to assume responsibility is believing that you can do what it takes to make a change.

I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 (New Century Version)

● Key #3: CLARIFY YOUR DIRECTION.

Does God want believers to aim for something specific?

- "Aim for perfection" (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- "Aim for what is honorable" (2 Corinthians 8:21)
- "Aim for what brings peace" (Romans 14:19)
- "Aim to please God" (2 Corinthians 5:9)

- You can't do what's important until you clarify what's important.

Three Questions

- What do I value in life?
- Is my direction consistent with those values?
- What are one or two changes I can make to become more consistent?

"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial.
1 Corinthians 6:12a (NIV)

If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never sow anything and never harvest anything. Ecclesiastes 11:4 (GNB)