

“What We Need To Start the Year”

Every year as we begin the year, we all set goals for ourselves and our families. We cannot expect others to set and achieve goals if we are not willing to do so ourselves. Getting started with the right goals and a renewed focus may be difficult, but it is certainly necessary. Here are some suggestions that will help as we each begin the new year the right way.

We Need A Passion For Souls

Psalms 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

We must never forget that each person is a soul for whom Christ died. His blood was shed for every one of these young people. HE was, and is, concerned for their souls. He wants to see each of them saved by the grace of God. Do we? Are we willing, as never before, to focus our attention on the spiritual needs of these children and their families? Where is our “passion” for souls?

This great need is beautifully illustrated by a personal incident in the ministry of **George Sweeting**, president of Moody Bible Institute. He said that a woman once came to him in deep distress. "I have been a Christian for 20 years," she told him, "Yet I'm not aware that I've ever led anyone to the Lord, I've memorized many Scripture verses and know how to meet the objections of the unconverted. But no one has made a decision for Christ. Why hasn't God been using me?" Wanting to help this believer, he asked her a question, "Have you ever wept for the unsaved and prayed for their conversion? Perhaps your failure hasn't been so much from a lack of knowledge as from a lack of love! When a person has genuine compassion for the lost, he'll weep over them and yearn for salvation." Sweeting said that the woman went to her room and began to pray earnestly for her sister. Then, with a tender heart, she went to visit her. Putting her arms around her, she said with weeping, "More than anything in this world, I want you to become a Christian!" That evening during the church service her sister publicly received the Savior and asked for His gracious forgiveness. We need a concern for all. The bright persons and the not so bright persons.

During a **Billy Sunday** evangelistic campaign, a mentally impaired boy came faithfully each night to sing in the choir. "Joey was not very bright," said **Homer Rodeheaver**, the well-known song leader, "but he never missed any of our meetings and wouldn't leave until he shook my hand. Sometimes I was embarrassed by the way he constantly tailed me, and I secretly wished he'd go away." Then one evening a man came to Rodeheaver and said, "Thank you for being kind to my son Joey. He's not right mentally, but never has he enjoyed anything so much as singing in the choir. He worked hard doing simple chores for people so he could contribute to the collection. Through his pleadings my wife and five other children came to this evangelistic campaign and have now received Christ. Last night his 75-year-old grandfather, who has been an atheist all his life, was saved, and tonight his grandmother also came forward. Now our entire family is converted!"

We Need A Power From God

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Consider these quotes as you think about your need of the Lord and His power to do what He has called you to do.

- ◆ **“When a man has no strength, if he leans on God, he becomes powerful.” D. L. Moody (1837-1899)**
- ◆ **“When God wants to move a mountain, he does not take a bar of iron, but he takes a little worm. The fact is, we have too much strength. We are not weak enough. It is not our strength that we want. One drop of God's strength is worth more than all the world.” D. L. Moody (1837-1899)**
- ◆ **You become stronger only when you become weaker. When you surrender your will to God, you discover the resources to do what God requires. Erwin W. Lutzer**

We cannot teach without the Lord. We cannot serve without the Lord. We cannot labor in love without Him. Remember John 15: 5, **“...for without me ye can do nothing.”**

We Need A Program To Follow

Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

You have at your disposal the very best in curriculum. The books and materials you have to use are of the highest quality in content. This program of study has been proven over the years in thousands of Christian schools across the nation and around the world. You can depend upon it as a tool to get the job done.

Follow your curriculum guides as well as the teaching notes from previous years that have proven successful. We do not need new programs but a renewed, refreshed outlook on our program.

Remember that our “program” involves more than curriculum and books. It involves teaching character, instilling values, and developing the persons in all areas of life. Emphasize discipline, encourage respectfulness in conversation (“yes sir, Yes ma’am”, etc.), establish goals, etc.

We Need A Perseverance To Finish

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Do not give up!! You will face much opposition from many sources. The world, the flesh, and the devil will do all in their power to hinder and handicap you. Do not let them win. See things through. **“Finish the Job!”** - Dr. Bob Jones, Sr.

DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high.
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit --
Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is odd with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out,
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow...
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out --
The silver tints of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit --
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Code of Persistence

Harold Sherman quite a while ago wrote a book entitled *How To Turn Failure Into Success*. In it he gives a "**Code of Persistence**." If you give up too easily, write this down and read it daily.

1. I will never give up so long as I know I am right.
2. I will believe that all things will work out for me if I hang on until the end.
3. I will be courageous and undismayed in the face of odds.
4. I will not permit anyone to intimidate me or deter me from my goals.
5. I will fight to overcome all physical handicaps and setbacks.
6. I will try again and again and yet again to accomplish what I desire.
7. I will take new faith and resolution from the knowledge that all successful men and women had to fight defeat and adversity.
8. I will never surrender to discouragement or despair no matter what seeming obstacles may confront me.