



How to get clarity for a new year.



21 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail. Proverbs 19:21 (NLT)

- God has a plan and a destination for your life this year.

17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians 5:17 (NLT)

We need a clarity for life:

- That gives us faith in a powerful God.
- That gives us guidance from a personal God.
- That gives us courage from a present God.

Clarity happens:

- When we're not distracted by our flesh.

17 The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. Galatians 5:17 (CEV)

- When we know when God is speaking to us.

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. John 10:27 (ESV) (Psalm 32:8 (NIV); Isaiah 30:21 (NET))

- When we're following the Spirit's leading in our life.

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14 (ESV)

16 ...walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

Fasting brings clarity:

- It establishes what is essential in our lives.
- It deals with the distractions that dominates our lives.
- It corrects our connection to this world.

3 "Call to me, and I will answer you; I will tell you wonderful and marvelous things that you know nothing about. Jeremiah 33:3 (GNT)

- Prayer connects us to God and his counsel.

2 Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116:2 (NIV)

GOD's there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it. Psalm 145:18 (MSG)

Our lack of connection with God reveals our lack of faith in God.

Prayer is simply: Our conversation with God.

Real prayer is driven by relationship not need or crisis.

How prayer connects us to God:

- Draws us close to God.
- Gives us confidence in God.
- Allows us to live dependently on God.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life. Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

How prayer brings clarity:

- Prayer replaces worry.

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Philippians 4:6 (MSG)

- Prayer relinquishes control.

...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

- Prayer creates contentment.

The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. Psalm 23:1 (NLT)

- Prayer provides confidence in God.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

Prayer doesn't move God toward us. Prayer moves us toward God.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- How is your fast going? Do you have someone that is praying for you?
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why do we need clarity for what God wants to do in our lives? In your own words, how does prayer give us clarity?
- If prayer is a conversation with God, how is your conversation going?
- Discuss how prayer realigns our lives.
- Do you find prayer to be a difficult discipline in your life? Explain.
- Discuss the three point under the subheading: "Clarity Happens".
- Do you find this to be true - "Our lack of connection with God reveals our lack of faith in God" ?
- How does prayer allow us to gain confidence in God?
- Read Psalms 139:23-24. Do you find that to be a difficult conversation with God?
- Discuss the points under the subheading - "How prayer brings clarity". Which of these are most difficult for you?

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OTHER NOTES:

WELCOME

Our Series:



How to get clarity for a new year.



Today's Talk..

How Prayer gives clarity.

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Information available in the courtyard.



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Doing life together