



How to get clarity for a new year.



9 ...We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. Colossians 1:9 - 10 (NLT)

...every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength! Ephesians 1:17-19 (MSG)

God's Word gives us His truth to live out.

The truth we know is what shapes our lives.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:16-17 (ESV)

They are no more defined by the world Than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. John 17:16-17(MSG)

Consecrated - Make you holy, set apart, set aside for God, completely belonging to and dedicated to God.

The Bible is literally infused with God's Spirit.

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

The word of God does the work of God in our lives.

If we want clarity from God's Word:

- The Bible needs to be the foundation of my life.

These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Matthew 7:24 (MSG)

I don't adjust the Bible to fit me; I adjust me to fit the Bible.

- The Bible needs to be a priority in my life.

97 Oh, how I love your teachings! They are in my thoughts all day long. Psalm 119:97 (GWT)

Priority comes from relationship.

- The Bible needs to take root in my life.

Matthew 13:19-23 (NLT)

If God's word is going to grow in us it has to be planted.

What it takes for God's word to grow in us:

- I have to accept it for what it is.

We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

- We have to read it with faith.

For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. (Hebrews 4:2)

- We have to get it in us.

By listening to God's Word.

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

By reading God's Word.

By memorizing God's Word.

I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

By meditating on God's Word.

I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. Psalm 119:15 (ESV)

- I have to apply it to my life.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)



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 praying for you?
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- In your own words, how does God's word bring clarity in our lives?
- Read John 17:16-17; Talk about how God's word consecrates us, and what that means.
- Why do you think many people don't read the Bible? Do you find it difficult to read?
- What does it mean that the Bible is alive and active? (Hebrews 4:12)
- How do we make the Bible the foundation of our lives? What does that even mean?
- How do we make the Bible a priority in our lives?
- Read Matthew 13:19-23; What are the soils you struggle with in your life?
- Do you find it difficult to accept the Bible as God's Word? Explain.
- How do we read the Bible with Faith?
- Meditating means to continually recall and think through. Why is meditating on God's word so important?
- Do you find it difficult to apply God's word to your life?

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