

## The Keys for Unlocking Your New Year

### How do you approach a new year?

A wise believer comes before the Lord and commits to order his way.

#### Three Unproductive Approaches

1. The Cynic
2. The Passive Person
3. The Superstitious Person

#### Three Productive Ways

1. Gather to hear the Word of the Lord
2. Respond to that in writing
3. Come to the Lord's Table

**James 4:7-8 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

The year of My redeemed has come!

**Isaiah 63:1-4 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, proclaiming victory, mighty to save." <sup>2</sup> Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress? <sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood battered my garments, and I stained all my clothing. <sup>4</sup> It was for me the day of vengeance; the year for me to redeem had come.

**Proverbs 3:5-7 (NIV)** <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.

Hearing  
Responding  
Turning

### Here are 3 keys to unlocking the new year ahead:

1. Stop reciting the past

2. Wake up to your new day
3. Expect the Lord to come into your world

### Stop Reciting The Past

**Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Don't remember the former things

That kind of "remembering" reinforces that past and fabricates a structure against the future

### Wake Up To Your New Day

**Ephesians 5:14 (NIV)** This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

**2 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)** Therefore, "Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

This is not isolation from the world, or indignation toward it, but identification with Jesus.

**John 17:14-16 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup> My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.

**1 John 2:15 (NIV)** Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father<sup>[a]</sup> is not in them.

**1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

The wake-up call of the Lord to us is:

..that we not be choked by the things that reduce productivity

**Matthew 13:25 (NIV)** But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.

**2 Corinthians 10:5 (NIV)** We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

**Romans 12:2 (NIV)** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

...that we not be burrowed into by worldliness

**Matthew 24:43 (NIV)** But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into.

...that we become people of prayer

**Jonah 1:6 (NIV)** The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

### **Expect the Lord to Come Into Your World**

**Luke 21:28 (NIV)** When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

We're to live as people who expect the return of Jesus!