

Get Going!

Message 1 of 2 in the series: "Reset"

A. God has good things for us to accomplish this year.

1. God has good things for me to accomplish in 2022.

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

2. God has good things for us to accomplish together in 2022.

"...Christ, who is the head of his body, the church... makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." Ephesians 4:15b-16 (NLT)

Life Application: We still have half of 2022 remaining. It's time to get going!

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12 (NIV)

"...let us consider how we may (encourage/spur-on/provoke/stir-up/irritate) one another toward love and good deeds..." Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)

B. Four ways we can make sure we're doing the good things God has planned for us in 2022:

1. We can surrender.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones." Proverbs 3:5-8 (NLT)

Note: Surrender means trusting God regardless of circumstances or outcomes.

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." Job 13:15a (NKJV)

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28 (NLT)

2. We can listen.

"Speak, LORD, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:9b (NLT)

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

Note: Listening requires solitude.

"...crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Luke 5:15b-16 (NIV)

Note: God occasionally prunes our schedules so we can have more time alone with Him. "In quietness and confidence is your strength. But you would have none of it." Isaiah 30:15b (NLT)

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more... Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me." John 15:1-2 & 4 (NLT)

3. We can pray.

"Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom... Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives. Give us gladness in proportion to our former misery! Replace the evil years with good. Let us, your servants, see you work again; let our children see your glory. And may the Lord our God show us his approval and make our efforts successful. Yes, make our efforts successful!" Psalms 90:12 & 14-17 (NLT)

Note: Prayer is more than asking God to give us what we want. It's asking Him to show us what He wants.

"O Lord, I give my life to you. I trust in you, my God! ...Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow. Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you." Psalm 25:1-2a & 4-5 (NLT)

Note: We can pray for each other, too!

"So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do."

2 Thessalonians 1:11 (NLT)

4. We can obey.

"Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." John 13:17 (NIV)

Note: Once God reveals to us the good things He wants us to do, He wants us to get going!

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns." Matthew 24: 45-46 (NIV)

Note: Obedience is an act of faith, NOT feelings.

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13 (NKJV)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 & 4:15-16. What good works might God want you to accomplish this year? What good works might God have planned for Centerpoint this year?
2. Why do you think the Bible instructs Christians to encourage/spur-on/provoke/stir-up/irritate each other towards love and good deeds? (Hebrews 10:24-25)
3. In your opinion, what keeps us from doing things we know we need to do?
4. Discuss the following four ways we can make sure we are doing the good things God has planned for us:
 1. We can surrender. (Job 13:15, Romans 8:28)
 2. We can listen. (1 Samuel 3:9-10, Luke 5:15-16)
 3. We can pray. (Psalm 25:1-5 & 90:12-17)
 4. We can obey. (John 13:17 & 14:21, Matthew 24:45-46)

Which of these ways is the easiest for you? Which is the most difficult?

5. Why do you think God needs to prune our schedules from time to time? (John 15:1-5, Isaiah 30:15)
6. Spend some time praying for each other and for our church. (2 Thessalonians 1:11)

Quotations to consider:

"Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter."

Francis Chan

"There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God. When you truly know God, you have energy to serve him, boldness to share him, and contentment in him." J.I. Packer

"Security is a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Helen Keller