

LIVING SACRIFICE



Daily Devotional for A New You In The New Year

Here is a Daily Devotional to enable you to make the most out of this sermon.
You may use it for your personal growth or discuss it together in your Life Group.

Day One: A New PERSPECTIVE.

- What was the one thing that you heard last weekend that you have applied to your life this past week?
- In his sermon, Pastor Whitcomb said, “All your success, and riches, and fame, and power, and position, and pleasure mean nothing if it is all aimed at your own goals. If you are pursuing anything for your own purpose, you are going to end up scoring an own goal. It won’t help you win in life – it actually works against you.”
- Read Romans 12:3. According to this verse, what should your perspective on your life be?
- Romans says that we must decide who we are by our faith in God. What are some ways the Bible describes us in relation to God? How can you be sure that you are seeing yourself as you are and not thinking too highly of yourself?
- Pray this prayer today: “Heavenly Father, help me to see myself as You see me. Help me to understand that I am nothing without You. I pray that this year, You will give me a fresh perspective on life so that I may learn to serve you more. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Day Two: A New You Requires a New MOTIVE.

- This past weekend, Pastor Whitcomb said, “Jesus made it clear: to move UP in ministry you have to go DOWN. To be more important, you have to be less seen. To be more rewarded, you have to be less rich. To be more elevated, you have to be more empty.”
- Read Luke 9:23. What must we give up in order to be a true follower of Jesus? What is the right motive for following Jesus? What are some motives for following Jesus that will not lead you to become a true follower? How can you avoid these bad motives?
- In your prayer today, ask God to help you have pure motives when it comes to following Him. Ask Him to reveal any area of your heart that is following Him for the wrong reasons.

Day Three: A New PURPOSE.

- Pastor Whitcomb preached last weekend, “You were made for a purpose. You were made to serve, to give, and to minister.”
- According to Romans 12:5-6, what is our purpose as Christians? Can you fulfill your true purpose on your own? What are some gifts that God has given you that you can use to serve other believers?
- Take some time today to reflect on what gifts God has given you. Are you using these gifts to serve God and others? If not, ask God to show you how to use your gifts for service, and not just for yourself.

Day Four: The Purpose that DOES NOT Matter.

- In his sermon, Pastor Whitcomb said, “You were made to contribute, not just to consume. God put you here to make a difference. In life it doesn’t really matter how long you live. What matters is how you live.”

- Are you distracted by what the world tells you your true purpose is? Read 2 Corinthians 6:1. What are some things that the world says your purpose is? What are some things that distract you from your true purpose as a follower of Jesus? 1 Corinthians talks about not ignoring the gift of God. Are you ignoring the gift of God, or have you truly accepted what it means to be a follower of Jesus?
- Pray this prayer from a sincere heart: “Heavenly Father, I pray that you would help me to tune out all the things that the world says about purpose. Help me to focus on what you say about me. Help me to truly seek you every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Day Five: The Purpose that DOES Matter.

- Pastor Whitcomb said, “You’ve been saved for a purpose. You’ve been given a second chance through redemption so that you can accomplish God’s plan. You’ve been saved to serve!”
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 Peter 2:9. According to these verses, what is our true purpose as followers of Christ? Is telling people about Christ the main goal in your life? You don’t have to be a pastor, or even work in a church to tell people about Christ. Can you think of people in your life who need to hear about Jesus? How can you share this good news with them?
- Today, spend some time praying and asking God to show you people in your life who need to hear about Jesus. If no one comes to mind, ask Him to give you the courage to go and find new people to minister to. Ask God to help you share this light with everyone you meet.

Day Six: A New PURSUIT.

- Pastor Whitcomb preached last weekend, “The fact that God has a purpose for your life does not make it automatic that it will come to pass. Some people think that if God has willed it then it will happen no matter what I do. But in actual fact there are many examples in the Bible of people who had a purpose from God but did not follow it. You have to pursue God’s purpose. Knowing it is not enough.”
- Read Romans 12:9-10 and Hebrews 12:1. According to Pastor Whitcomb, knowing is not enough. What do these verses teach that must be done in addition to knowing God? It is not enough to just know that you have a purpose, you must also pursue it. Are you pursuing your purpose in Christ, or are you taking a relaxed approach to following Jesus?
- Pray this prayer today: “Heavenly Father, help me to pursue you with my whole heart. I know that it is not enough for me to just know you, I must also pursue you. Help me to find ways in which I can pursue you every day. Help me not to be content on the sidelines, but give me a passion to pursue everything you have for me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Day Seven: To Grow, You have to Say NO.

- Pastor Whitcomb said, “When you put God first in your life He takes care of everything else. The work, the relationships, the finances, the health – all those others. In fact, He’s promised over and over again in the Bible. He says, ‘You put Me first. You make My will the goal of your life. You’re going to fulfill My purposes for your life and I will bless you! I will take care of you in ways that you do not even know about.’”
- Read Romans 6:13. Have you given yourself completely to God? Or are there still things in your life that you need to say NO to? Proverbs 3:6 talks about putting God first. Have you put God above everything else in your life? If you have not, you will never grow in your pursuit of Him.
- Spend time today asking God to show you things in your life that you need to say no to. If there is anything that you are putting above God, ask Him to take complete control in that area. Pray that God will be the one thing you pursue above all else.