

A Year of Greater Things

Would you like God to use you in greater ways this year than He ever has before? He is always willing to do so. The issue is not on His end, but ours.

What would these greater ways look like? They can look like one of three things:

1. Doing current things in greater ways
2. Doing new things never done or considered before
3. Doing things previously begun or considered but deferred

1. Doing current things in greater ways

To way to maximize what we're already doing is to do the following:

- a. Forget the past (Phil. 3:13)
- b. Reach ahead (v. 13)
- c. Press towards the goal (v.14)
- d. Listen to correction – make course corrections as needed (v. 15)
- e. Live up to the progress already made (v. 16)

This means don't backslide when it gets hard. It always gets harder when we begin moving to another level. But God's grace is there to carry us and empower us to reach the goal.

2. Doing new things never done or considered before

To begin something new, the best way to succeed is shown to us in Proverbs 24: 3-4:

“Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”

Building with wisdom is to begin with the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7).

- a. First, listen to the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 2: 9-12). We make ourselves more sensitive to the Spirit as we develop our prayer lives. We are to pray with the Spirit and with the understanding also (I Cor. 14: 14-15).
- b. Next, we establish the house with understanding. This means we get the counsel of people that are successfully doing what God has shown us to do. This step must not be bypassed.

In I Cor. 3:10, Paul says he has laid a foundation and others will build on it, but they should be careful how they build on it. The idea is to follow the example of those who have gone where we want to go. We can avoid many mistakes if we learn from the ones the mentors have made.

Heb. 13:7 (NIV): Remember your leaders who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

- c. Finally, we fill the rooms of the house with knowledge. This means success. The idea is to obtain more knowledge. Don't be stagnant in your knowledge. Learn from an even wider circle. Study what others have done. Meet them if possible. Take a course (or two) in school. If you take your purpose seriously you will prepare yourself. Knowledge does not fall from heaven. God expects us to be diligent. Keep getting better!
3. To begin something once deferred and succeed in it:
 - a. Be healed. Make sure your heart is healed from past discouragement, distrust in God, or doubt. (Prov. 13: 12)
 - b. Be renewed in mind (Eph. 4: 22-24). To begin a new thing, you can't go about it with the mind you had when it was deferred. This is

the lesson that Moses had to learn. He believed he would deliver Israel but killing the Egyptian was not the way (Acts 7: 22-30).

c. Build with wisdom. This is the step in section 2 above. Once your heart is healed and your mind renewed, God can use you as He desires for His glory.

If we purpose now in our hearts to be used by the Lord in a greater way this year, no matter what the path, He will get us there. Victory is assured, and we should give God all the praise for it.