

A man prayed in New Year's Day, "Dear Lord So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen"

How is your new year going so far?

In the late 1980's Steven Covey wrote a best selling book entitled, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." It is the result of hundreds of hours of study and observation and interestingly enough, but not surprisingly, his discoveries of truth about life sound a lot like what we read in scripture.

Covey says that before we can become mature, we must accept that we have the power to choose and that we are ultimately responsible for our choices. Does that sound a bit like Genesis 2-3 where God allowed Adam and Eve to face the liar and decide whose words they would trust? They were given a choice, but did not choose wisely. Think of the consequences of the power to choose!

Next, Covey says, "We need to begin with the end in mind." The point here is that unless Jesus returns in our life-time, we are all going to die. As the scripture in Psalms 90:12 says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." And as Hebrews 9:27 reminds us, "It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment." And as Paul wrote to the Corinthians in 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

As an application for beginning with the end in mind, Covey makes a wise suggestion: “Write your own funeral service.” In other words write down what you would like to have said about your life at your funeral. This helps you to get in touch with what is most important to you. It also helps you realize that whatever you live for now ends up being what you eventually died for.

Are you living for what you honestly believe is worth dying for? God gives us the time and opportunity to do just that in 2019! He gives us the instruction in his word that shows us how to live for what is truly worth dying for and he gives us strength through his Holy Spirit and the fellowship of other brothers and sisters in Christ to experience just such a life.

By the way, it’s not as complex as you think. As a Christian I know that living for what is worth dying for is as simple as walking with the Lord every day. Walking with God in Jesus Christ is worth dying for! Every day that we do this, we live a day that is worth dying for. What could be greater than serving Jesus? If we serve a brother or sister in His name, we serve the Lord himself! What could be greater than helping someone else get to heaven? If we confess our faith in Jesus Christ and walk with Him, we will do just that! What could be more amazing than to speak to and hear from the creator of the universe himself? If you read the scriptures and pray you are doing just that!

To help you walk with Jesus Christ every day, I would like to challenge you to memorize 52 Bible verses in 2019. I will give you one bible verse each week. The first bible verse comes from Psalm 119:105, “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*”

To memorize it, repetition is key. Read these verses often! If you want to do with your kids, you can talk about what these verses mean and how to apply to a daily life with them. I believe that memorizing God's word helps strengthen and encourage our spiritual journey. Walking in Christ according to His word, this is the greatest life that we can live.

We began a new year. We are ready to start a new life in 2019. God wants to do something new in our lives. I pray God restore and use us with the word of God.