

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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WELCOME 2023

John Edwards

We wish you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** as you apply these principles in your life:

H - HEAR. The greatest use of one's ears is to hear Jesus Christ. *“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear”* (Mt. 11:15).

A - ABIDE. The key to a fruitful life, spiritually, is a close connection with Jesus. *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me”* (Jn. 15:4).

P - PLEASE. Our greatest accomplishment in this new year will be to please God. *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more”* (1 Th. 4:1).

P - PRAISE. God is worthy of all the praise we can give Him. *“Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great”* (Rev. 19:5).

Y - YESTERDAY IS GONE. Don't live in the past. *“...forgetting those things which are behind...”* (Phil. 3:13). Live your best life today!

N - NEED. Let us recognize our need for Jesus each day of the year. *“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:19).

E - ESCAPE. Temptation did not end with the old year. Let us find the way to escape. *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it”* (1 Cor. 10:13).

W - WORSHIP. One of the great privileges we have as children of God is to worship God. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”* (Jn. 4:24).

Y - YOU. If you are going to be saved, it is up to you! *“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”* (Phil. 2:12).

E - EXPECT THE BEST. Too many are doom and gloom. Be optimistic and radiate positivity. *“...we are well able...”* is the spirit of success (Num. 13:30).

A - ALWAYS. We can't take a day off from serving Christ or let down our guard for a moment against Satan. *“Always”* is a vital word. It means, at all times. *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 15:58).

R - RESIST. We must set ourselves against the devil so as to withstand his advances. *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you”* (Jas. 4:7).

WHAT CAN I DO IN THE COMING YEAR?

Greg Gwin

Many times Christians feel as though there is nothing they can do to positively assist in the work of the church. This, of course, is a huge mistake. There is something for everyone to do. Let us suggest these things that EVERY member of the local congregation can do that will help our collective service for the Lord:

1) **You can read your Bible every day.** There are few things that can compare to regular Bible reading when it comes to strengthening the soul and maintaining focus on spiritual priorities. What are you waiting for? Make the commitment right NOW to read your Bible this year.

2) **You can attend the services faithfully.** We all push ourselves to do certain things. We'll go to real extremes to attend family gatherings, keep a doctor's appointment, go to a ballgame, have a regular time at the beauty shop, etc. Unfortunately,

some are not nearly so determined to attend worship services and Bible studies. If you can get out for other things, why can't you get out for services? Think! You can really help by simply being present.

3) **You can pray fervently.** Do you consistently spend time in prayer every day? Pray for the church, for the elders, for those who are weak, for our work in reaching the lost, etc. *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (James 5:16).

4) **You can invite a neighbor, co-worker, or family member to attend the services with you.** You might be surprised how many would be willing to come with you if you simply invited them.

5) **You can set a good example.** Don't forget that others are watching everything you do, everything you say, everywhere you go. If you let down, even once, they will notice it, and your influence will be damaged. Be conscious of your impact by way of your example.

6) **You can be positive and enthusiastic.** Too many are "doom and gloom" Christians, always looking for negative things to complain about. Look up! Be thankful for what you have and excited about what you can do for God's glory.

READ THE BIBLE THROUGH 2023

A daily Bible reading schedule has been made available for everyone here. We are encouraging every one to read their Bible every day in 2023!

Ephesians 3:4, *"Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."*

1 Timothy 4:13, *"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."*

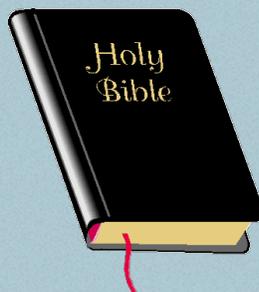
Revelation 1:3, *"Blessed is he that readeth..."*

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We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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