

2025: RESOLUTION: CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Matthew 20:25; John 20:25; 2 Chronicles 20:25

“Gratitude follows grace as thunder follows lightning.” *Karl Barth*

“Celebrate endings – for they precede new beginnings.” *Jonathan Huie*

“To improve is to change, to be perfect is to change often.” *Winston Churchill*

“What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.” *Vernon McClellan* (And what you choose not to bring in the new year...*JEB*)

- Upscope: a framework for focus.
 - A three pronged approach for 2025.

“It always seems impossible until it is done.”
Nelson Mandela

“Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” *Carl Bard*

“Every year you make a resolution to change yourself, this year make a resolution to be yourself.” *Unknown*

“It is always humility to agree with God.” *John Brown*

⁵Lean on, trust in, *and* be confident in the Lord with all your heart *and* mind and do not rely on your own insight *or* understanding. ⁶In all your ways know, recognize, *and* acknowledge Him, and He will direct *and* make straight *and* plain your paths. **Proverbs 3:5-6 AMPC**

- Put all your confidence in God and ‘lean in’ trusting Him.
- Recognize and acknowledge Him and He will make His guidance clear.

16 The plans of the mind *and* orderly thinking belong to man, but from the Lord comes the [wise] answer of the tongue. ²All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits (the thoughts and intents of the heart). ³Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established *and* succeed. **Proverbs 16:1-3 AMPC**

- Think things through but rely on God's wisdom for your response.
- We all operate from our opinions and conclusions...
- The Lord is looking for our motives...our heart intent.
- When we intentionally ‘sell out’ to Him, putting our trust and confidence in Him then He will cause our thoughts and motives to be aligned with His will.
- This ‘alignment/agreement’ will establish our plans and determine our outcomes.

For I desire *and* delight in dutiful steadfast love *and* goodness, not sacrifice, and the knowledge of *and* acquaintance with God more than burnt offerings. **Hosea 6:6 AMPC**

- His desires are that we love Him and know Him richer, deeper, and higher.
- This is a wonderful way to 'resolve' our entrance to 2025.

PASSAGES FOR 2025

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Jesus with her sons, bowing down and making a request of Him. ²¹And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She *said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left." ²²But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." ²³He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on *My* left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." ²⁴And hearing *this*, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and *their* great men exercise authority over them. ²⁶It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." ²⁹As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. **Matthew 20:20-29 NASB**

- You can't lead someone or serve someone by 'lording' it over them.
- Not with knowledge, position, or prestige.
- What counts in the kingdom of God is a servant's heart and/or a servant leader.

²⁵"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. ²⁶Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. **Acts 20:25-26 NASB**

- Paul is giving his farewell speech to the leaders of the Church of Ephesus because his ministry with them was over.
 - He says in **v25**, "You will see my face no more."
 - Many scholars refer to **I Timothy 1:3** that he actually did get to them again.
 - So...it is never over until it is over. Paul's ministry and relationship to the church in Ephesus were great...but not quite over.
 - His plan is better than our conclusions.

So the other disciples kept telling him, We have seen the Lord! But he said to them, Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe [it]. **John 20:25 AMPC**

- Thomas didn't show up to the meeting with Jesus. (See **John 20:19-23**)
 - Thomas rejected the disciples' testimonies, and stubbornly argued, "I won't believe what you say...it has to be my way or no way at all!"
 - How many have an unsaved or prodigal friend or family member that is obstinate in their rejection of your pleadings and prayers? Nothing you have tried so far has brought them around.
 - Thomas didn't come around either...until...eight days later Jesus meets the demands of Thomas's rejections. Thomas has a personal power encounter in the presence of Jesus and he changes his shouts of "I will never believe it" to "My Lord and my God."
 - Pray that 2025 is the new beginning for those you pray for who need to turn to the Lord or return to the Lord.
 - It took eight days for Thomas to have his encounter...eight is the 'symbol' of new beginnings..Let's pray that way for those who need to come home to God.

¹⁴Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; ¹⁵and he said, "Listen, all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: thus says the LORD to you, 'Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God's. ¹⁶Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷You *need* not fight in this *battle*, station yourselves, stand and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out to face them, for the LORD is with you." ¹⁸Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshiping the LORD. ¹⁹The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and of the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

Enemies Destroy Themselves

²⁰They rose early in the morning and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa; and when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the LORD your God and you will be established. Put your trust in His prophets and succeed." ²¹When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the LORD and those who praised *Him* in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the LORD, for His lovingkindness is everlasting." ²²When they began singing and praising, the LORD set

ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. ²³ For the sons of Ammon and Moab rose up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir destroying *them* completely; and when they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another. ²⁴ When Judah came to the lookout of the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude, and behold, they *were* corpses lying on the ground, and no one had escaped. ²⁵ When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take their spoil, they found much among them, *including* goods, garments and valuable things which they took for themselves, more than they could carry. And they were three days taking the spoil because there was so much. 2
Chronicles 20:14-25 NASB

- God granted victory for His people and there was great 'spoil' – to the victor belongs the spoil.
 - It took the people three days to collect the goods, garments, and valuable things.
 - Many victories provide much spoil!
 - This incredible victory was the result of people trusting the Lord and the Word of God, prayer, and worship.
 - God's people were rescued and dramatically provided for by the Word of the Lord, prayerful obedience, and worship.
 - What a great combination of His intervention and the response of His people.

Come, Lord!