

Ready, Steady, Go

Introduction

- The end of a year and the beginning of a new year are always key moments in my mind, thinking and planning.
- I am not cynical and I don't throw away my hope for a better future and a more fruitful life
- I believe we can learn from our mistakes
- I believe we can become more Jesus like people
- Our marriages can become more God centred and enriched by God's grace and power
- You and I can and should grow in our intimacy with God
- It's the potential for New Beginnings

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

- A time for finishing somethings
- A time for beginning new things

Ready, Steady, Go

Ready

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. [12] The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. [13] Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. [14] Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. **Romans 13:11-14**

But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about! **Romans 13:11-14 MSG**

- Are you ready for the year to end?
- Are there besetting sins you need to bring to the Lord and ask for freedom?
- Are there relationships that have left you damaged, disappointed, disillusioned?
- Have you lived in 2017 as you intended?
- Has your relationship with Jesus grown as you had hoped?
- Have you prayed as you had hoped at the beginning of this year?
- Has your prayer life deepened and grown in intimacy with your Saviour?

- Are you ready to say goodbye to this season?
- Don't leave things unfinished or undealt with in 2017.
 - Think, ponder, pray and speak to those you are doing life with
 - Resolve what you can
 - Repent of what you need too
 - Repair the relationships that can be repaired
 - Renew your commitment to the Lord in a new and fresh way
 - Allow Him to Restore you

'The way you leave something, determines the way you enter.' **Ed Cole**

- Don't leave bitter,
- Don't leave angry
- Don't leave half hearted
- Don't leave with unforgiveness
- Don't leave 2017 comfortable with lukewarmness
- Don't settle for a cold heart towards the Lord
- LEAVE WELL

Steady or set

- Set resolutions for 2018 - Resolves
- Don't coast into 2018- Carried by the current of the world
- Don't drift into 2018 -This will cause you to drift through the whole year
- Live with purpose - Good desire, resolve

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. [12] We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

- Make you worthy - Yes he makes us worthy by the blood of Christ
- But we also have a worthy response to the calling we have received
- That by His power
- He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness
- And your every deed prompted by Faith
- So the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you
- According to the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ

So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. **2 Thessalonians 1:11 NLT**

Because we know that this extraordinary day is just ahead, we pray for you all the time---pray that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something. If your life honours the name of Jesus, he will honour you. Grace is behind and through all of this, our God giving himself freely, the Master, Jesus Christ, giving himself freely. **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 MSG**

- Set your heart towards the Lord
- Set your focus on Jesus
- Resolve to be better
- One thing Life Focus - Lovijg God whole heartedly
- Word, Prayer & Community

Give yourself to the **Bible**

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. **Jeremiah 15.16**

- choose a plan and commit to it

Give yourself to **Prayer**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. **Colossians 4:2**

Give yourself to Godly **community** centred around `Christ

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. **Acts 2:46-47**

Satan devotes himself 168 hours a week trying to deceive you and fill your mind with junk. He has seen to it that you are surrounded almost entirely by a Christless culture whose mood, and entertainment, and advertising, and recreation, and politics are shot through with lies about what you should feel and think and do.

Do you think that in this atmosphere you can maintain a vigorous, powerful, free, renewed mind with a ten-minute glance at God's book once a day? The reason there are church people who are basically secular like everyone else except with a religious veneer is that they devote 99% of their time to absorbing the trajectories of the world and 1% of their time to absorbing the trajectories of God's word. **David Matthias**

Go

So since we stand surrounded by all those who have gone before, an enormous cloud of witnesses, let us drop every extra weight, every sin that clings to us and slackens our pace, and let us run with endurance the long race set before us.

Hebrews 12:1 Voice

- Run
- Run with perseverance
- Run with intentionality
- Run with passion

And do not fear

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

God is calling all of you to not be afraid. Fear not, because God is with you. Fear not, because God is your God. Fear not, because God will strengthen you. Fear not, because God will help you. Fear not, because God will support you and hold you up by his victorious right hand.

“I am your God.” That is, I am above you. I am over you with my mighty hand. Over you. I am with you. Beside you. I will help you from whatever angle the enemy may come — or the attack or threat. I am all around you as your help. I will strengthen you from inside out. I will be your strength. And I will uphold you from underneath you. Do not be afraid.

And there is one great ground for fearlessness: God. You have a God who is infinitely more powerful! He is God! He is God! Do you believe him? Do not be afraid.

Jesus said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God” (John 14:1). What else can we say? “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.” **John Piper** sermon 1993 ‘Fear Not, I am with you, I am your God’