



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

CONQUER CHALLENGES

A New You for a New Year Series – Part 6

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Everyone wants to leave a legacy, to leave a mark on this world and to know if life indeed has mattered. On our end, when we die, what will people remember about us? For instance, Jabez is still remembered for his prayer asking for spiritual prosperity borne out of discontent with how things were in his time. An important question is: “Are we content with how we stand in our spiritual journey?” Subsequently, we are encouraged to pray for spiritual blessings to conquer the challenges we face and to influence our decisions in life.

1. Praying for Spiritual Blessings

Some equate God’s blessings with wealth. Many have been deceived by “Prosperity Gospels”. St. Paul has warned us in 2 Timothy 4: 3-4 that *“time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine ... and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths.”* Rather, we are encouraged to pray for spiritual blessings: to dwell in the house of the Lord, to be closer Him, to win more souls for Him and to be able to serve Him better.

Moreover, we must not be content with how things stand. Let us endeavor to let God use us to do more of His work. St. Paul has exhorted us to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and to be ready to share (1 Tim. 6:18).

2. Conquering Challenges

A crisis is a turning point when a critical decision must be made for an important change to occur. We can all expect to encounter some crises at one point in our lifetime: identity crisis, a quarter-life crisis, or a mid-life crisis. We can either flee from crises or face these head on. When we flee, we might miss out God’s intended purpose for allowing crises in our life.

When we face it head on, we can make the most of the opportunities that these challenges present.

3. Making Good Decisions

Our life is the sum total of our decisions, and the key to make a significance in our life is to make good decisions guided by the Word of God. Decisions based on feelings (upset or angry) may lead us astray. Our decisions must be according to what God wants for our lives.

4. Living a Life of Significance

Whatever our situation in life is; wherever we are; whoever is in our sphere of influence, we must live our lives based on consequences. We must intentionally influence others for God. We must not be afraid to speak up for Christ and stand strong for our convictions.

God has “shaped” us for our significance. He designed a special and specific “shape” for us.

S – Spiritual Gifts – What am I gifted for?

H – Heart – What am I passionate about?

A – Abilities – What are my God-given talents and abilities?

P – Personality – Where is my personality best suited for the glory of God?

E – Experience – How can I use my experiences to further God’s Kingdom?

CONCLUSION: Whatever challenges we are facing, we must dare to conquer these and pursue what God wants for our life.

REFLECTION:

1. What am I passionate about?
2. What are my core values and greatest strengths?

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