

## How is Your 2023 Going?

*“The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.”*

G.K. Chesterton

New Year's Encouragement

from Paul's Letter  
to the Philippians

**Therefore, my dear friends,** as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—**continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.**

**Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.**

Phil 2:12-16a (NIV)

# Individual and Corporate Wings: Prayer Christian life



Whatever happens, **conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you **stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”**

Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

**For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

Philippians 1:29 (ESV)

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Philippians 2:1-5 (NIV)

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death —

even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is  
Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)



Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.

Philippians 2:12-16a (NIV)

# Work out Your Salvation

Serve the LORD with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling. Submit to God's royal son, or he will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of all your activities— for his anger flares up in an instant. But what joy for all who take refuge in him!

Psalm 2:11-12 (NLT)

Trust in the LORD with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Live in a way that honours Jesus

Working out salvation ≠ working for salvation

Knowing about God ≠ knowing God

God enables us to live for Him

*What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love my deep and boundless  
peace*

*To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I but through Christ in me*

And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

Ephesians 1:13b-14 (NLT)

*Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”*

**Grumbling is saying God has short-changed us**

# The World We Live In

“They are corrupt and not his children; to their shame they are a warped and crooked generation. Deut 32:5 (NIV).

Jesus in Matthew 17:17 “You unbelieving and perverse generation (NIV, NASB)

faithless and corrupt (NLT)

faithless and twisted (ESV)

# **Our Calling**

**Live Differently**

**Put God First, Trust Him for our needs**

**Be blameless and pure (above reproach)**

**Be single-minded**

***shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold  
firmly to the word of life***



# The Word of Life

“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

John 17:17 (ESV)

You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope  
in your word

Psalms 119:114 (NIV)

# Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen.*

# Words into Actions

What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?

James 2:14-16 (NLT)

# More Encouragement

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. 3:1 (NLT)

...everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...

3:8

... I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. 3:13,14

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own... 3:20-21

...whose names are written in the Book of Life 4:3

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! 4:4

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace 4:6

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

4:8

I have learned how to be content with whatever I have ... For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. 4:11,13

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. 4:19

**Prayer – We will:**

**draw closer to the Lord this year.**

**continue to work out our salvation  
with fear and trembling,**

**shine like stars**

**as we hold firmly to the word of life.**



***Our Father who is in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever.  
Amen.***