

The Good Life
Draw near to God ... and he will draw near to you
James 4:6-8

Goal for 2022 – Potting a plant and growing some things.

James 4:6-8 (NAS)

⁶ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.



1. **A Biblical Promise: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."**
2. **A Biblical Principle: God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."**
 - a. Pride is ultimately what keeps us from drawing near to God.
 - b. "I don't need God in my life."
 - c. "I get it done in my life on my own."

Romans 10:9-11 (NAS)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; ¹³ for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

1. **Biblical Truth: Believe in your heart that Jesus is raised from the dead.**
 - a. If Jesus came to the earth.
 - b. If Jesus lived a sinless life.
 - c. If Jesus was crucified on a Cross.
 - d. If Jesus' death on the cross satisfies the holiness of God required for salvation.
 - e. If Jesus was in the ground for three days.
 - f. If Jesus was raised from the dead by the hand of God.
 - g. If Jesus has sat down at the right hand of the Father in Heaven.
 - h. THEN, He is indeed the Lord of the Universe.
 - i. And then, your only correct response is to ...
2. **Biblical Requirement: Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord.**
 - a. With our hearts, we believe, resulting in Righteousness: righteousness is us in right alignment with God.
 - b. With our mouths we confess, resulting in salvation: Our mouth declaring Jesus as Lord is an act of Faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NAS)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1. **Biblical Foundation: Faith is a response to the grace of God.**
2. **Biblical Truth: We don't save ourselves.**

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Romans 8:1 (NAS)

"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

1. Biblical Blessing: God is in the business of Redemption.

- a. Forgiveness is a blessing.
- b. Redemption is a new lease on life.

Acts 2:38 (NAS)

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Biblical Requirement: Repentance before a Holy God.**
2. **Biblical Requirement: The Humble act of being Baptized into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.**
3. **Biblical Gift: God's Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you.**

The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life

Acts 1:4-5 (NAS)

⁴ Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1. **Biblical Blessing: The baptism of the Holy Spirit in your soul and over your life.**

Romans 8:11 (NAS)

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1. **Biblical Blessing: God works through the Holy Spirit to GIVE LIFE to your mortal bodies**

John 7:37-41 (NAS)

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

⁴¹ Others said, "He is the Messiah."

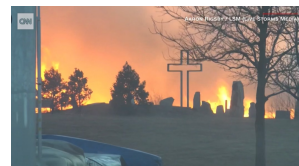
1. **Prophet or Messiah – Who is he to you?**

Knowing the God of Hope – Romans 15:13 (NIV)

¹³ "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Beliefs alone don't carry you through the fires of life.

Faith is the action of putting your practical and ultimate trust in the God of Hope to be your Savior and Lord.



Your Game Plan for this year is ...

Your one word or phrase from God to focus on this year from is ...

Prayer of Anointing of God's Spirit on and over your life ...