

SPIRITUAL GROWTH IS A MATTER OF INTENTIONALITY

"Will I have a good year in 2024?" You will have a great year if you have a great year spiritually! The greatest opportunity in the New Year is to grow in intimacy with Jesus. To become the man or woman of God, we have always wanted to be, we must be intentional about our spiritual growth. With it, we must embrace the biblical approach of incorporating our physical, mental, and emotional—our everyday living—into our development.

A.W. Tozer referred to this as the "sacrament of living." In other words, our entire daily existence should glorify God. The Apostle Paul said, "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31 NET). In reality, there is no division of the sacred or secular in our lives as it is all spiritual, and every area of our life belongs to God and pertains to our spiritual growth.

Here is the pathway I will take to more remarkable growth & maturity in the Lord in the upcoming year:

SPIRITUALLY

- The Word of God is powerful and anointed. Spend regular time reading it.
- Regular personal prayer time. For best results, always start your prayer time with personal repentance, worship & praying in the Holy Spirit (tongues). Prayer is the most significant way to build intimacy with God.

"But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit..." Jude 20 (NIV)

• Consistent church attendance. On fire disciples always faithfully gather with the Church for corporate growth and strengthening. There is no substitute for this. The very word church means the "gathering of called out ones."

- "Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:25 (NIV)
- You are serving somewhere within the Body where you are needed.
- Begin tithing. Everything we have has been given to us by the Lord—honor Him with the first 10% of what you make and what comes to you.
- "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD."

 Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)
 - "You should have practiced the latter (mercy, justice, faithfulness) without neglecting the former (tithing)." Matthew 23:23 (NIV)
- Make a monthly pledge to give to missions. Go on a mission trip. Avail yourself to missions and outreach opportunities within the Body.

My personal goals to grow spiritually in 2023:

RELATIONALLY:

Join and faithfully attend a small group. Being in a small group is a great way to build friendships that matter.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

Proverbs 27:17 (NIV)

- Read the Bible and pray with your spouse or close friend.
- Come to corporate prayer on Wednesday night. There are ways to grow spiritually that can only be accessed corporately.
- Spend quality time with your children and spouse. Get on the floor and play with your children or grandchildren, grab coffee with your teen or young adult, or spend time walking, cooking, or even cleaning with your spouse.

- Spend quality time with some Godly friends who can speak into your life and you into theirs.
- Put your phone down. Pay better attention to those in your life who are right before you.
- Share your story of what Jesus has done for you with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker.

My personal goals to grow relationally:	

INTELLECTUALLY:

Set a goal to read a book of substance. Avoid the "pop Christianity" bestsellers and use power-packed classics from authors like A.W. Tozer, Andrew Murray, Oswald Chambers, or C.S. Lewis.

My personal goals to grow intellectually:
Take an online class in a field of interest.
Memorize some Bible verses. Practice recalling them.

PHYSICALLY:

- Begin exercising or exercise more. God has invested in our physical body—what kind of return is He getting?
- Don't overeat. Learn to push away from the table when you are full.
- Eat more fruits, nuts and vegetables. Eliminate junk food in your life. You will be amazed how much better you feel.

• Resolve not to eat after a specific time in the evening—stick to it. Going to bed a little hungry is good and helps you look forward to breakfast.

My personal goals to grow physically:

EMOTIONALLY:

- Seek peace from the Lord and walk in it. As the Apostle Paul said, do your best to live at peace with everyone (Rom. 12:8) including yourself.
- Christ is the Warrior and has won the victory—stop litigating past failures and hurts in your mind.
- Emancipate people. Forgive & release them. You will live a longer, fuller, and freer life.

wy personal goals to grow emotionally:	

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY:

A.B.I.D.E. Bible Reading Plan

- <u>A</u> ACT: What is the Holy Spirit telling me to do or act on in this passage?
- **B BELIEVE**: How do my personal beliefs need to be adjusted to what I just read?
- <u>I</u> **INTERCEDE:** Take a few minutes and combine belief with prayer and pray for 3 people to be saved, delivered, or healed.
- <u>D</u> **DECLARE**: Make a faith declaration based on the scripture you just read, ex., "My friend will be healed!"
- **<u>E</u> EXPECT**: Live in constant expectancy that God will do something incredible through you and your prayers.

DESTINY

Destiny Church Youtube Channel—for videos that teach, inform, and inspire: https://www.youtube.com/

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Ardent Voice Podcast - Pastor Eric's podcast exists to provide inspiring and educational content to believers on issues of theology, culture, and a Biblical worldview.

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-ardent-voice/id1703840765

Free Online Bible:

https://www.biblegateway.com/

Free Useful Mobile Apps:

You Version—Bible App

Blue Letter Bible — Bible App

Read Scripture—Bible Project App

Touch Bible—Bible Study App