

<https://youtu.be/S6fF1X34ZSI>

### Looking back on 2020:

- What have you learned from 2020?
- What challenges did you face and what obstacles have you overcome?
- Remember the provision, protection and guidance from God during the year?

We can use this experience, these miracles that God did for us in 2020 to build our faith and our trust in Him for all that He has planned for us in 2021. We grew and were strengthened during 2020, don't let the obstacles define you, allow the God that brought you victory through these obstacles to define you and guide you in this new season.

### Looking forward to 2021:

- What are your goals? (what goals could you not accomplish during 2020, and why? How can you do things differently to allow you to accomplish it in 2021?)
- What changes do you want to make?
- What new things do you want to implement?

### New Years Resolution

- "I don't call them New Year's Resolutions. I prefer the term: casual promises I make to myself that I am under no legal obligation to fulfill."
- "What exactly is a New Year's Resolution?" "It's a to-do list for the first week of January."

### What does a resolution mean?

*resolution*

1. a firm decision to do or not to do something.
2. the quality of being determined or resolute.

### Similar:

- determination
- purpose
- commitment

There is nothing wrong with new year's resolutions, I think we sometimes lack the planning or determination to see our resolutions through.

I want to encourage you to set goals for 2021, but above that, I want to encourage you to set your goals in line with the Word of God.

I can promise you that His Word will change you, if you let it, if you pursue it diligently.

### Romans 15:4

*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*

Let's evaluate ourselves, our lives and our relationship with God - where are we, what are we doing? Is this God's will for my life and if things are wrong in some areas, what does His word say about it?

If we are setting goals and commitments for our lives to be changed, we have to make sure that we align them with God's Word and His Will. Otherwise, we are building on sinking sand.

We cannot expect God's blessing or His protection if we are working against Him, we have to make sure that we are in line with Him.

#### **How do we know if we are in line with God's will?**

- His Word
- His voice
- Godly counsel (Someone who has your best interests at heart & who has had success or victory in the same area that you are seeking).

#### **Relationship with God**

##### ***John 4:23-24***

*But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

It says we MUST worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

IN SPIRIT & TRUTH: means the deepest and truest part of ourselves must worship God.

God does not want our acting or our surface worship, God wants our deep worship, He wants us to worship Him with every part of ourselves, even the deepest parts of ourselves, our spirit.

##### ***Hosea 6:6***

*For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.*

#### **Finances**

Where is your focus? What are you seeking?

##### ***Matthew 6:33***

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

##### ***Matthew 6:20-21***

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

#### **Relationships with others**

##### ***Romans 12:18-21***

*If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*