



Digging Deeper

Putting your faith in ACTION!

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:

1. What scenarios come to mind when you think about things you want *now*? Contrast those things with you want *most*. What needs to change?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13-14, what are some of your *old ways*? Are there any of these you have slipped into last year that you would like to NOT slip back into this year?
3. What are your 'go to' excuses? Diligently seek the Lord's guidance in how to eliminate these excuses in 2018.
4. What is the work that you know you need to do in 2018? Where will you start? (How is your prayer life?)

FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:

1. Read the story of Nehemiah and the rebuilding of the walls.
2. If you kids made any New Year's resolutions this year, this would be a great time to see how they are doing and encourage them.
3. Ask your family answer this question: This year I hope to _____.
4. How can you encourage and keep one another accountable this year?
5. Take some time pray together.



Today's Service

January 7th, 2018

Series: Back to the Start

Part 1: Hope in Action

Pastor Brian Stanley



This year, I hope to _____.

1 Peter 1:13-14 (NLT) ¹³ ...Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then.

¹³ So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control.

Discipline defined: Choosing what you want _____ over what you want _____.

How to put your Hope in Action:

1. Define the _____.

Nehemiah 1:3 (NLT) ³ They said to me, "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire."

Proverbs 25:28 (NLT) ²⁸ A person without self-control is like a city with broken-down walls.

You can't _____ what you don't define!

It's in the places of our _____ that we can show _____.

2. Diligently _____.

Nehemiah 1:4 (NLT) ⁴ When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven.

God doesn't always call the _____, but He ALWAYS equips the _____!

3. Do the _____.

This year WILL be different!

Nehemiah 2:17-18 (NLT) ¹⁷ But now I said to them, "You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!" ¹⁸ Then I told them about how the gracious hand of God had been on me, and about my conversation with the king.

They replied at once, "Yes, let's rebuild the wall!" So they began the good work.

Nehemiah 6:3-4 (ESV) ³ And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" ⁴ And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

Nehemiah 6:2 (ESV) ² Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm.

NOTES:

