



**Happy New Year  
2022**



**TODAY WE LOOK AT**

**SPIRITUAL RESOLUTIONS FOR 2022**

**PART 2**

**“WHAT DOES THE MASTER WANT?”**



## *Where to Start?*

Ephesians 5:15-20

(MSG)

So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get.  
These are desperate times!

Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly.

**Make sure you understand what the Master wants.**

Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life.

Drink the Spirit of God, huge quantity's of Him.

Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ.

Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in  
the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.



# What *Does the Master Want?* (Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and Luke 8:11-15)

The Master (Jesus) wants us to...

- Build each other up
- Reach for Unity (in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus)
- Become Mature
- Attain... the whole measure of the FULLNESS of Christ
- Grow... up into HIM
- Be lovers of truth who hear it deep within our hearts
- Endure all things in faith
- Bear much GOOD fruit



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It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>*to prepare* [equipping] God's people for works of service [ministry], so that *the body* of Christ may be *built up*



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1. *Equipping* also has the idea of “**to put right.**” The Greek word used here describes *setting broken bones or mending nets.*

These ministries *work together* to *produce strong, mended, fit Christians.*



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These ministries *work together* to *produce strong, mended, fit Christians*.
2. God's *people* do the *real work* of *ministry*. Leaders in the church have *the first responsibility* to *equip people* to *serve* and to *direct their service* as God leads.





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2. God's *people* do the *real work* of *ministry*. Leaders in the church have *the first responsibility* to *equip people* to *serve* and to *direct their service* as God leads.
3. “The **primary purpose** of the Church *isn't* to **convert sinners** to Christianity, but **to perfect** (complete and mature) **the saints** for **the ministry** and **edification of the Body**.”

(Chuck Smith: New Testament Study Guide)



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<sup>13</sup>until we all reach **unity** of the **faith** and in the **knowledge** of the **Son of God** and **become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**





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1. Till ***we all*** reach ***unity of the faith***: This is the ***first goal*** of God's work through the gifted offices and equipped saints. This is ***consistent*** with both ***the ultimate purpose*** of God  
(*Ephesians 1:10* to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—  
to ***bring unity*** to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.)  
and ***the mystery of God*** revealed through Paul.

(*Ephesians 3:6* This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are ***heirs together*** with Israel, ***members together of one body***, and ***sharers together*** in the promise in Christ Jesus.)



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1. Till *we all* reach *unity of the faith*: This is the *first goal* of God's work through the gifted offices and equipped saints. This is *consistent* with both *the ultimate purpose* of God (Ephesians 1:10) and *the mystery of God* revealed through Paul. (Ephesians 3:6).
2. The *gifted offices* and *equipped saints* bring *the saints to maturity*, according to *the measure of Jesus Himself*. As years pass by, *we should not only grow old in Jesus*, but *more mature in Him as well*, as *both individuals* and as *a corporate body (together)*.





# What *Does the Master Want?* (Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and Luke 8:11-15)

## Ephesians 4:11-16

Then we will no longer be infants tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>Instead, speaking the truth in love, **we will in *all things grow up into Him*** who is the Head, that is, **Christ**. <sup>16</sup>From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.



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1. Another way *maturity is described* is as the *growing up into Jesus*, who is the head. Again, *this defines the direction of maturity*. We never grow “*independent*” of *Jesus*, we *grow up* into Him – We Think, We talk, We Act... We Live like Him.





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# What *Does the Master Want?* (Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and Luke 8:11-15)

## Luke 8:11-15 (The Parable of the Seed)

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

<sup>12</sup>Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup>Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. *They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.*

<sup>14</sup>*The seed* that fell among thorns stands *for those who hear*, but as *they go on their way* they *are choked* by life's *worries, riches and pleasures*, and *they do not mature.*

<sup>15</sup>*But* the seed *on good soil* stands *for those with a noble* (righteous) and *good heart*, who *hear the word, retain it*, and by *persevering* (stand firm, are resolute) *produce a crop.*



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1. The sower cast the *same seed*. You *could* not *blame the differences* in results on *the sower or on the seed*, but *only on the soil*.





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1. The sower cast the *same seed*. You *could* not *blame the differences* in results on *the sower or on the seed*, but *only on the soil*.
2. The parable was also *an encouragement* to *the disciples* and *to us*. Even though it might seem that *few respond*, *God is in control* and the *harvest will certainly come*.



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3. Some people are like the good ground, and receive the word with a good and noble heart. *They keep the word*, and *thus bear fruit*, thus *fulfilling the purpose of the seed*.
4. *Bear fruit* with patience: Obviously, *this is the desired outcome*. The parable of the sower *compels the listener* to ask,

*What kind of soil am I?*

*How can I prepare my heart and mind to be the right kind of soil?"*

This parable *invites action* so that *we will receive* the word of God to *full benefit*.



# *Spiritual Resolutions for 2022: Looking Forward from a Backward View*

*What Does the Master Want?*





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# *Spiritual Resolutions for 2022: Last Week*

*What Does the Master Want?    What to do Next.*

**Find out...** (Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and Luke 8:11-15)

**Assess** where **you** are **now**...

**Commit** to **doing** what the Master wants...



**It is Good to... first ask... “What have I Become?”**



**It is Good to... first ask... “What have I Become?”**

**It is than Better to ask... “What can I Become?”**

# *Spiritual Resolutions for 2022: Looking Forward from a Backward View*

*What Does the Master Want?    What to do Next.*

**Find out...** (Based on Ephesians 4:11-16 and Luke 8:11-15)

**Assess** where **you** are **now**...

**Commit** to **doing** what the Master wants...

Let's **Assess**...





# Quick Assessment Handout