

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday January 2, 2021. "Reset: What do we need to reset?"

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this Sunday. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We're now in 2022, a brand new year, and we're excited about where God is leading us. A great group of familiar and new faces join us each Sunday. Our children's area is expanding and we are retooling our student ministry. You can check all that out through our social media sites. We're so encouraged by your love and presence when you gather with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is ANYTHING you need; prayer, ideas or suggestions, please pass them our way. We know the future is still uncertain, but we are committed to making our virtual congregation as central to NCC as our in person group.

II Sunday.

We welcomed in a new year with a new twist on an old idea. Traditionally, we want to use the new year to start some healthier, more life-giving practices. Staying with that same idea, and fitting, or forcing it, into a modern analogy, we came up with **"Reset"**. The basic idea is that over time our devices (phone, tablet, and more) start to lose some of their original functionality, and it forces us to make one of two choices. Either we throw it away and buy a new one, (a lot of us do). Or to get the most out of that device, we do some maintenance on it. This usually involves digging through our device, cleaning out old files, updating software or plugins, look for unused apps, or some malware. All of this work is to return the device as close as we possibly can, to its original factory settings and quality...a "reset".

We know you're smart. You can already see the parallels between the work of getting our device back to healthy functioning, and the similar work we can do in our daily lives, and in our relationship with God.

So, some getting the juices flowing questions.

What is the thing that frustrates you the most about your handheld device?

What is one thing that frustrates you the most about your daily life?

If you could change at least one thing about you, what would you want to change?

This first sunday won't be an in the weeds look at the specific things to do a "reset". We'll just hit the good comes from a reset, and the fundamental reason to do one. First, we'll hit the benefits of doing a "reset" for an actual device. This comes from Google. Read it first as it applies to your electronic device. And then reread this list as it relates to your spiritual life and relationship with God.

1. Removes programs and software that may be hindering functions.

2. Frees up space.

3. Speeds up processing.
4. Limits crashes and freezing up.
5. Helps connectivity.
6. Makes the battery last longer.
7. A reset reinstalls the original intent and design by the manufacturer of how the device was supposed to operate.

How could each of these help you in your relationship with God?

There were two scripture passages used. We're going to hit the one that talks about the importance of a "reset" first, and I want you to interact with specific words and phrases from the passage. Read **2 Corinthians 13:5-9**, and then interact with each of the following phrases. I'll give a brief description after each one.

1. **"Make sure"**- know what you want...as specifically as you can.
2. **"Don't drift"**- what's causing you to not operate at your best? Do you know when other programs get loaded on? Do you keep up with what's happening on the inside?
3. **"Regular checkups"**- build a pattern, routine, habits of going through your life and resetting.
4. **"Jesus is in you"**- again know what you want. How will you know you're doing the better things?
5. **"If you fail ... do something about it"**- when you see a problem, have a response. Finding issues is not a loss but a 'win'. The 'more you know' ...right?
6. **"Then go on to celebrate every strength and triumph of the truth in you"**-

The second passage was **Hebrews 12:1-3**. Read it, and answer the questions.

What jumped out to you about this passage?

What did it say to you about what a "reset" looks like?

Now use this passage to interpret the actual benefits of a "reset" in spiritual terms for your life.

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III Challenge.

It's a brand new year. We're trying to be optimistic this can be a great year, even though things are still pretty crazy. But in order to get the most out of a new year and a new start, we have to have a new frame of mind. And a "reset", doing a deep inspection, identifying what isn't helping us be our best, and removing unnecessary programs and pesky bugs is the best way to make this year epic.

So, where are you going to start?