

“NEXT”

Well, in a few hours, 2017 will be in the history books, and quite honestly, we probably all have mixed emotions about it. Each year gets judged by the events, good and bad, that we attach to their days. Every year has highlights and lowlights that are high or low enough to get remembered. And while we aren't promised tomorrow, we do presume we will be here tomorrow. On that presumption, we make plans and look down the road of our future. That's what I want to address today. What's next for you? I mean, what's your plan? What's your next step? If you are on a spiritual journey (or not), what is your next spiritual step as you continue to mature, which by the way, is God's plan for you.

1. Our Presumption

James 4:13-14

13 Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.”

14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

2. Lord Willing

James 4:15

15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.”

Proverbs 16:9

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

3. Your Next Step

Proverbs 20:24a

A person's steps are directed by the LORD.

-God has a next step of spiritual maturity for you.

-He wants you to learn to trust Him deeper.

-He wants your faith to grow. So how will that happen?

-He will bring events in your life where that can happen.

A. We are a day away from next year.

B. We are a day away from our next year (personal).

C. We are a day away from our best year.

D. We are a step away from your next step of spiritual growth.

So, what is your next step in this next year? You know what you need, what is your plan?

Are you open to spiritual maturity and obedience to God?

1 Peter 1:3-8

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

*8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they **will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

For you who are up in years...

Psalm 71:18

*Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the **next** generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come.*

Conclusion: What is the Lord leading you to step into this year? What's your next step?

Bottom Line - You are safe in your next spiritual step; where the Lord directs, He protects.