SUNDAY ARTICLE

St David's Presbyterian Church • 27 December 2015



Ten Questions to Ask at the Start of a New Year

Don Whitney

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with Him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai. "Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:5) he declared, urging them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going.

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

- **1.** What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
- **2.** What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
- **3.** What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?

- **4.** In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
- **5.** What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
- **6.** What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
- 7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
- **8.** What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
- **9.** What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
- **10.** What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in 10 years? In eternity?

In addition to these 10 questions, here are 21 more to help you "Consider your ways." Think on the entire list at one sitting, or answer one question each day for a month.

- 11. What's the most important decision you need to make this year?
- **12.** What area of your life most needs simplifying, and what's one way you could simplify in that area?
- **13.** What's the most important need you feel burdened to meet this year?

- **14.** What habit would you most like to establish this year?
- **24.** What's the most important trip you want to take this year?
- **15.** Who is the person you most want to encourage this year?
- **25.** What skill do you most want to learn or improve this year?
- **16.** What is your most important financial goal this year, and what is the most important step you can take toward achieving it?
- **26.** To what need or ministry will you try to give an unprecedented amount this year?
- **17.** What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your work life this year?
- **27.** What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your commute this year?
- **18.** What's one new way you could be a blessing to your pastor (or to another who ministers to you) this year?
- **28.** What one biblical doctrine do you most want to understand better this year, and what will you do about it?
- **19.** What's one thing you could do this year to enrich the spiritual legacy you will leave to your children and grandchildren?
- **29.** If those who know you best gave you one piece of advice, what would they say? Would they be right? What will you do about it?
- **20.** What book, in addition to the Bible, do you most want to read this year?
- **30.** What's the most important new item you want to buy this year?
- **21.** What one thing do you most regret about last year, and what will you do about it this year?
- **31.** In what area of your life do you most need change, and what will you do about it this year?
- **22.** What single blessing from God do you want to seek most earnestly this year?
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- **23.** In what area of your life do you most need growth, and what will you do about it this year?

Don Whitney is an author and Professor of Biblical Spirituality

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www.christianity.com/christian-life/spiritual-growth/ ten-questions-to-ask-at-the-start-of-a-new-year-11643580.html