

## Looking for God in the New Year Entering into God's Presence

How can we enter the coming new year with a true sense of God's presence? For a true sense of God's presence is what we need to give us the faith to face all of the many challenges that shall come our way in this coming year.

The Christian life is a life of faith, meaning we must have the ability to see and perceive those things that are in the heart of God that He desires to release into our lives.

When we are walking in an acute sense of His presence, we are able to face problems, undertake tasks, meet emergencies and to dedicate ourselves to the opportunities that come our way with a greater degree of fervency and zeal.

Hebrews 11:6; Isaiah 42:16; Isaiah 46:4

### DIRECTIONS TO LOOK FOR GOD

#### 1. Look Back

##### Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

- \* Identify those times in which you had evidence of faith in overcoming doubt, sin, unbelief or anything else.
- \* Identify those times you saw yourself go from despair to courage in the midst of suffering or situations that seemed insurmountable.
- \* See how the hand of God was at work in your deliverance.
- \* Take the time to give Him thanks for all that He did.  
Psalm 105:1; Psalm 140:13

#### 2. Look Inward

##### Psalm 51:6-8

*Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice.*

- \* Look at your relationship with God and with others.
- \* Look at your stewardship over all that God has given to you.
- \* Hold each area of your life alongside God's standards.
- \* Pray to grow in faithfulness and holiness.

##### Psalm 139:23–24 (NIV)

*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

##### Psalm 26:2-3

*Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart. 3 For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, and I have walked in Your truth.*

Be honest with God and yourself and you shall experience a great refreshing from Him that will give you the enthusiasm you need to change.

**Acts 3:19** (NIV) *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*

##### 2 Corinthians 7:10–11 (NIV)

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.*

### 3. Look Up

#### Hebrews 12:1–2 (NIV)

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. 2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Since Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith, this means He is also at work right now with our lives.

- \* Look to Jesus as our helper through any circumstance we may encounter.

#### Psalm 28:7 (NIV)

*The Lord is my strength and my shield;  
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.  
My heart leaps for joy  
and I will give thanks to him in song.*

- \* Look to Jesus as our power source for ministry.

#### John 15:5 (NIV)

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”*

### 4. Look Outward

- \* Look at the world through the eyes of Jesus and serve them with love and compassion. Getting involved in the Lord’s harvest of souls keeps you in the presence of God.

#### John 4:35

*“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”*

#### Matthew 9:36–38 (NIV)

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

### 5. Look Forward

#### Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

*being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

- \* Because God will be with us, we can look to each new day with keen anticipation.

Faith calls us to move into this new year – to face problems, undertake tasks, meet emergencies, and dedicate ourselves to the opportunities the year will present.

- \* We should go forth with confidence knowing that God is at work in us.