

End of Year Challenge

Earlier this week as I was preparing for a time of corporate prayer with some of the men in one of my e-groups, this list of “Re-” words came to mind. As I was writing them down, I had an idea of what they were about, but I wasn't positive. As I have continued to think about them, I have come to believe that my first thoughts were mostly on target. Here goes.

As the end of this year and the beginning of another one approaches, many like to set some time aside to reminisce, remember and at times process things that have occurred during the last year. Looking at the past then turns to considering the future, and the year ahead often plans, goals and resolutions. With this idea in mind, I want to challenge each of us to set some time aside for this purpose, using the template below. I encourage you to not only do this individually, but to do it as couples and families. If you are one who journals, I strongly encourage you to add this activity to it.

Reflect - Recall, remember and process the significant events that occurred in your life this year. What were your successes and failures? Where did God “Show up?” Where did you stumble and fall?

Rejoice - Celebrate, honor, worship and praise the Father for all that He did for, in, and through you this year.

Repent - When those times were you missed the mark come to mind, quickly and sincerely repent and ask for forgiveness.

Restore - Prepare your mind, heart and spirit as you look into and prepare for all that He has planned for you in the year to come.

Refocus - “Set your mind and heart on things above” rather than getting stuck in the business and distractions of this life. Incline your ears to hear his voice and your eyes to see your world from His perspective.

Renew - Recommit yourself to making Him your “first love” and truly the “Lord” of your life. Prioritize spending time in His Word and in conversation with Him.

I can make no promises regarding how exactly this exercise will impact your today or your tomorrow. However, I do sincerely believe that He WILL meet you where you are and make himself real to you if you will seek Him.

*And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. **Jeremiah 29:13***