

Following Christ Is Making & Keeping Resolutions

The New Year is an opportunity for a new beginning, especially if 2023 has been difficult or disappointing. Lamentations 3:23 says *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning.* Here are some ways to draw closer to God:

1. Pre-resolution. Peace awaits the one who is quick to admit and turn from sin. *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed*" James 5:16. The presence of sin is a sure way to invite calamity, doubt, and consequences. Reflect upon the roots of our weaknesses by the power of the Holy Spirit, with the assurance that genuine repentance leads to life and peace (2 Corinthians 7:10). Jesus does not want us to be burdened by our sin. He wants us to experience freedom. Confession is a realization and admission of truth, and the truth sets us free.

2. Remember what the Lord has done. Believers are exhorted to *take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,* Deuteronomy 6:12. It's human nature to minimize the good, and focus on the bad. But we can never remember the Lord's goodness towards us too often. Remembering Christ is essential; the more one does this the better. Think of the many prayer requests, of His sovereign interventions when you didn't even have time to pray, the abundance of His rich blessings upon you, and His constant presence with you.

3. Make a life resolution. We are called to *put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness,* Ephesians 4:22-24. Think of what you can do on a regular basis, daily preferably. If it's not regular, it's quickly forgotten. Whether it's daily verbally encouraging a person, doing a chore, staying away from a location where you frequently sin, keeping your word/promises by adhering to a calendar, starting a Bible reading plan, or sharing the Gospel with someone each week, pledge this resolution to yourself and God. Then share it with a close friend to help encourage you.

New Year's is a season of resetting wandered hearts, and of restoring the habit of turning to Christ every day for a fresh start. It's not about a new relationship with Christ, but daily refreshing our relationship with Him. As you continually grow in Christ this upcoming year, may you experience His rich presence and abundant blessings.

Welcome to Journey!

EVANGELICAL CHURCH



Reunion of CPCOC Couples Fellowship



A member of EFCA • efca.org
14614 Magnolia Street, Westminster, CA 92683
(714) 893-5500 • JourneyEC.org

Order of Service

January 7th, 2024

- Welcome & Call To Worship.....Josh
- Worship.....Kyle & Congregation
- Sermon..... **A Radical Response To Trials** Ted
- Song of Response.....Kyle & Congregation
- Benediction.....Phil Y.

Sermon Outline:

Ted Kau • *Active Faith*

1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. **2** Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.—James 1:1–4



Context

- ▶ **Author:** Jesus' half-bro: humble, converted. Resurrection evidence (Jn 7:5, 1 Cor 15:7)
- ▶ **Audience:** Jewish Christians refugees, dispersed because of persecution
- ▶ **Purpose:** to empower and care for persecuted believers, whether then or now

Crucial truths for mature Christian living and evangelism

1. Expect _____.
“...when you meet trials of various kinds”—1:2
2. Know each trial's _____.: steadfastness, perfection, completion. “...for you know that the testing of your faith produces...”—1:3
3. The key to maturity: our _____.
“Count it all joy...”—1:2

Happy New Year! Some ways to get involved:

Bible Reading: it's not too late to start a Bible reading program. Here's a **3 year, no guilt plan** (~a chapter a day): tinyurl.com/3-year-plan. If you'd like to join our Bible Club, or if you are already in a Bible reading program, please email amy@journeyec.org for updates and encouragements.

Today: we will thank our **servant leaders** who have faithfully completed their term of service, and also commission our new officers.

1/9-11: Parking Lot Refurbishment, No Table Tennis: pray hard for warm sun and no rain on those days so that we can repair and resurface the lot.

1/12: Youth Ministry Outreach (7-9pm): we will enjoy a special “forward” dinner night out. Please invite all your middle and high school friends.

1/14: Youth Parents Orientation (12:00-12:40): agenda will be this year's calendar, winter & summer retreats, and open forum. Looking forward to seeing y'all.

1/15: Winter Youth Retreat Sign Up Deadline (2/2-4 Forest Home, Ojai Valley): only 8 slots left! Cost is \$295, generous scholarships are available.

1/28: Welcome Training (12:00-12:45): everyone is welcome to join, especially new officers. Come join us for fun role play.

2/11: The Super Bowl of Love & Listening: Save the date! More info to come.

2/11: Super Bowl Outreach: prayerfully consider hosting an outreach to your unchurched friends and coworkers.

Deacons—Agnes Liu, Alan Hung, Allie Wong, Darryl Mu, Jeff Way, Pat Leung, Paulah Wong, Shirley Chun, Teresa Jue, Valerie Yee, Wesley Lin

Elders—Cliff Char, Hiro Kono, Joshua Cain, Peter Leung, Phil Jen Kin, Rick Chou, Ron Jue, Victor Wong

Staff

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| | Amy Mu—Office & Ministry Asst. |

Prompts for prayer:

- Pray for those who suffer for their faith, and even for their persecutors to be saved.
- Pray for those you know who are struggling (financial, medical, relational, emotional), that they would turn to God for hope and deliverance.
- What trials will you thank God for? Preach to your heart to trust His good plans.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to increase your endurance and live out active faith, that your steadfastness would result in greater Christlikeness.