

Winning Big in 2024

The only constant thing in this world is change.

Genesis 3:6-13

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

*9. But the Lord God called to the man, "**Where are you?**"*

10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

*11 And he said, "**Who told you that you were naked?** Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"*

12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

*13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "**What is this you have done?**"*

Questions asked by God:

- *Where are you?*
- *Who told you that you were naked?*
- *What is this you have done?*

As believers, our number one occupation is to believe.

Main text: Psalm 37:3-5

3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; *Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*

4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, *And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

5 Commit your way to the Lord, *Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD

Psalm 37:3 – *Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Corrie Ten Boom

Trusting God:

- Is not about ignoring your feelings or reality
- Is living a life of unwavering faith and constant obedience to God and His Word, even when things seem impossible and difficult
- Is more than a feeling; it's a choice to believe and put your life in what He says
- Is holding tightly on the truths of God's Word while the facts are saying something different

God is trustworthy.

Numbers 23:19 – *“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”*

Trust in the Lord and do good!

People who trust in the Lord will do good.

Good is not good if God is not in it.

Luke 18:18 – *A religious leader asked Him, Good Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. No one is good – except God alone.*

Practical ways in doing meaningful things in 2024:

- **Be more generous**

When the Lord is blessing you, lift the standard of your giving, not the standard of your living.

You become God's hands meeting the needs of the people around you.

You become like your Heavenly Father who is so extravagant, lavish and extremely generous to His very own children.

- **Be actively involved** – take part in what God is doing

Titus 3:8 – *This is a trustworthy saying. And I want to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

The concept of community is such an important part of our Christian life because it is in the context of our relationships that we have the opportunity to learn how to give and receive love and grow in the things of the Lord.

- **Be people smart** – expand your cultural competency

Interacting with people from different ethnicity and cultures has the ability to expand your view of the world, enrich

your daily life, and give you a better glimpse of both God and eternity.

Take part in God's great mosaic (mixture, variety, medley) of life because it's His masterpiece.

DELIGHT YOURSELF ALSO IN THE LORD

Psalm 37:4 – *Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

To delight yourself in the Lord means:

- You value the Giver more than His gifts
- Your heart truly finds peace, enjoyment and fulfillment in Him
- He will give you the longings of your heart

Many Christians do not delight in God because they do not know Him very well, and the reason they do not know Him very well is they do not spend time with Him.

Psalm 16:11 – *You will show me the path of life; In your Presence is fullness of joy; At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

- Being blessed, always remaining fresh and fruitful

Psalm 1:1-3 – *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its*

season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

- Seeking His Presence, His kingdom, His righteousness

Matthew 6:33 sums it all – To delight in the Lord means to seek first His Presence, His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things (the necessities of life) will be given to you as well.

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD

Psalm 37:5 – *Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.*

To commit your way to the Lord is:

- To entrust your whole life – your going out and your coming in, your decisions in life, in the hands of God

Proverbs 19:21 – *There are many plans in a man's heart, but the Lord's plan (counsel, purpose) will prevail.*

- To trust that His plans are bigger and better than your plans – He already has worked out a plan for you.

Jeremiah 29:11 – *I know that plans I have for you....*

“A life totally committed to God has nothing to fear, nothing to lose, nothing to regret.” **Pandita Ramabai**

Proverbs 16:3 – *Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established.*

“Everything God ever asks you to do, even if it’s difficult, He asks because He has something great in mind for you.” **Joyce Meyer**

WHO IS IN CHARGE OF YOUR LIFE?

IN WHOSE HANDS ARE YOU COMMITTING YOUR LIFE TO?

It is the hand of the Lord that brings the blessing, and it is the blessing of the Lord that brings the increase.

The Lord cannot bless something that is not in His hands.

Let’s all strive to make this year the best one we’ve ever lived.

- *Let us trust the Lord wholeheartedly and keep doing good!*
- *Let us set our hearts on God, always delighting ourselves in Him!*
- *Let us commit our ways to the Lord!*

Psalm 37:6 declares, *“He will make your righteousness (your pursuit of right standing with God) like the light, And your judgment like (the shining of) the noonday (Sun).”*