

New Year's Changes
Martinwood Christian Church

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We had a great Holy Season and celebration of our Lord and Saviors birth. What a great day that was for the world when God gave us His one and only son to save us. I think it is fitting for us to do His work for all the great things He's done for us.

Our 2023 Christ Theme is - **Reach One – Teach One**

This is a be strong and courageous thing we've been asked to do this year.

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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Once again we're asked to step outside ourselves and make the decision to follow what God has asked of us. This isn't easy, but nothing that comes with a miracle is easy. And sometimes we have to change something in our spirit to see big miracles.

I expect 2023 will see many miracles. For the most part the pandemic is over, and we'll be seeing some changes, not only in people, but in relationships and family lives. In our day to day routines and our relationship with God.

This is the year to do things; to make things happen that will not happen without **YOU!** Yes **YOU!** God is waiting for you to step up. I'm not sure what he wants you to do, but **YOU** do, or you will.

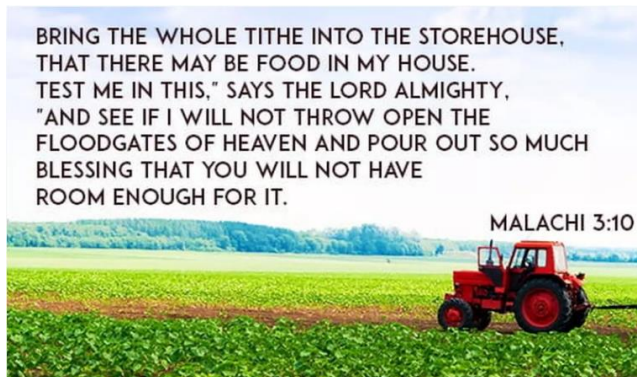
Let's put all the gunk from the last few years in our rear view mirror, get up from the couch and briskly move forward to what awaits us. I'm already seeing good things start to happen, but each one of us needs to make a

decision to make changes to our spirit and to keep our eyes on Jesus for opportunities to Reach One and Teach One.

So how do we do this? There's many ways to move forward, make changes and do things we otherwise would not do. One is to make a, or several, New Year's resolution.

How many remember last year's resolutions? How many followed through with them? We make plans to do things, but sometimes, those plans don't happen. We let "other" things get in the way of "those" plans. It happens a lot. I'm only telling you from my experience what has happened. It's great news if you follow through with your resolutions and plans you make. That's great!!

Some of those things might be quitting smoking, losing weight, saving more money this year than you did in 2022, making an effort to tithe to the church (for those who aren't sure of the word tithing, that means giving 10% of your earning to the church, it's what God asks us to do).



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I don't want you to miss out on your blessing from the Lord. All I'm doing is reading to you what God already wrote. These things are the visible; they are in the natural. People, including yourself can see the outcome of those actions.

The change I'm talking about for this year is the change you make within your spirit. This is different. This isn't something others can see; this is a change that's inside you, it's deep down. No one can see it, but you. That's what makes it so special. This change is between you and God.

1 Corinthians 15:51

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed

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Let's talk about the spirit for a while. What is your spirit? Your spirit is the culmination of a lot of generations of a lot of spirits. I sometimes do things I saw my dad do. I see and feel things I know my grandfather saw and did. It's that culmination of generations that is the spirit residing within you.

It's not the physical body, it's the spirit within the physical body that makes all the difference in the world, so this year I'm saying we need to take a look at our spirit. Find one thing to change in your spirit for 2023.

I'm not saying this is going to be easy, but it all starts somewhere and it starts with the way we think. We think things into existence.

Paul said it best when he said,

Romans 12:12

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God

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It all starts with the renewal of your mind. That's how we get things started; we change our spirit, by changing how we think; by changing our minds. We have to think differently. We have to think the way we want things to change, not the way we used to think.

Like when we were baptized, we *were baptized into Christ's death, and buried with Him in baptism*. The old was buried so the new could arise, resurrected.

That's the change we need to make this year. A change of something in our spirit. Need ideas? This has to do with how you think. Then I'll wrap up.

Fruit of the Spirit

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control

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Galatians 5:22-23

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

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I said I'd wrap it up, but I have one last thing to share with you....

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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This week....

What's the plan? Decide to make a change to something in your spirit.

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Let's go to the Lord in prayer....

Here we go marching out the door strong and courageously with Your Gospel, showing Your Gospel through our thoughts, words and deeds. Bring those to us you want to Reach and Teach. Guide us in what we are supposed to say and do to meet Christ's Theme. Thank you for giving us clear direction as we pray and ask for your wisdom in all we say and do. Show us the wonders of your love. Thank you for blessing, protecting and lifting up your ministry right here on 8th Avenue. In Jesus Name we Pray....AMEN!

Before we leave today, I want to give you the opportunity to make Jesus a part of your life. Now is the time. If not now, when? Don't wait. Take this time to make Jesus the Lord of your life.

Just say:
Lord Jesus
I repent of my sins
Come into my heart
I make you my Lord and savior

We believe if you said that simple prayer you've been born again. Read your Bible this week, keep coming back and God will show you the way.

If you want to talk more about giving your life to the Lord or being baptized, please reach out to me here at the church or drop me a note online. We'd love to hear from you.

We Love you, we care about you, and we can't wait to see you right back here next week.

Have a great week.

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<https://youtu.be/FnqNAnj74U>