

PRAYING FOR THE NEW YEAR

Let it be INTENTIONAL.

Here's a definition of it: **Intentional means done on purpose or with deliberate planning.** It involves making conscious choices and acting with a clear purpose or goal in mind, rather than by accident or without thought.

From a biblical perspective, being intentional often aligns with living purposefully according to God's will and seeking to glorify Him in our decisions and actions. For example, in **Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)**, we are encouraged to be intentional with how we live:

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

Intentional living requires mindfulness, focus, and a commitment to align our actions with our values and priorities.

As I step into this new year, I'm reflecting on this and taking time to reflect on the faithfulness of God. The start of a new year is a reminder that His mercies are new every morning, and so is His grace for every season of life.

The Bible encourages us in **Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)**. *"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."*

This is a promise for you as you embrace the new year. God is not only walking with you into this year but is also preparing the path ahead. No matter what challenges or uncertainties lie before you, trust that He is making a way.

Let us also remember to anchor ourselves in Him. **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)** says:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

As you make plans and set goals, commit them to the Lord, knowing He will guide you in wisdom and love. Even if you feel unsure about what's next, know that His plans for you are good, as promised in **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)**. *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

So, start this year with courage, hope, and faith. Remember, each day is a gift from God to grow, serve, and love.

Let us proclaim together the words of **Psalms 118:24 (NIV)**:

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

May your NEW YEAR be filled with the peace, joy, and blessings of our faithful God. Happy New Year!