

January 5, 2009

TURN A CORNER!

This new year is a new point of departure, a fresh start, a beginning all over again. Here are four ways your year can be truly new and fresh:

First, during this year “press on to know the Lord!” Make it your chief aim to know Him better – to know Him

Intellectually (map out a reading and study plan
to know the facts of Him) – and
Experientially (schedule in aloneness with God,
to love and adore Him).

Hosea 6:3: “O that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him! And he will respond to us as surely as the coming of the dawn, and the rain of early spring!”

Second, discipline yourself. Unless you do you will probably only repeat last year – but not do it as well! Discipline is a fruit of the Spirit. During this year live by goals and schedules made before the Lord. You will only discover excellence on the other side of hardship and self-control.

Third, decide to be a happy person. It’s your choice! Of course there are things to be sad about – but let the tenor, the aroma, of your life be joy. God commands you to be a rejoicing person, and that, too, is His Spirit’s work in you. A bumper sticker I saw said, “Sing and dance in the streets – God loves you!”

You owe it to God, to yourself and to others to be happy in your Lord Jesus! “Rejoice in the Lord... always!”

Fourth, live with aggressive enthusiasm. “Whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:17). One of Jonathan Edwards’ seventy resolutions said, “I am determined that while I live, I shall live with all my might!”

Friend, this new year will go fast! Start with these four “points of departure,” and trust God to renew you now, and to keep you living all year in renewal.

You’ll turn a corner.