



QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Why do people do new years resolutions?	What resolutions are you are making for 2017?
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We generally are aware of f_____ n_____ and obvious issues but we often fail to recognize our s_____ n_____ and issues that need to be addressed, that should be the ones we start with.

What are the signs of the Spiritual Battle that is going on over us? ✓ the ones you think are correct

- Lies that keep coming to mind
- Lack of desire to read the Bible
- Fatigue
- Trying to change the nature and character of God
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Anger
- Thoughts of self harm
- Depression
- Using God's name in vain.
- Loneliness
- Sickness
- Need things to be happy
- Confusion
- Rebellion
- Strong temptations leading to sin

1 Peter 5:8 "Be self controlled and alert, your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith"

Here is your Spiritual Game Plan

- Hebrews 11 is about : men and women of great faith who realized God had something better for them.
- Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us (1) **throw off everything that hinders** and (2) **the sin that so easily entangles**. And let (3) **us run with perseverance the race** marked out for us, (4) **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

THROW OFF – EVERYTHING THAT

1. **THINGS THAT CAN WASTE TIME** ask: **why do I do this?** How much time should I do it?
- Social Media
 - Entertainment
 - Hanging out time

2. **ADDICTIONS** ask: **why do I do it? How much & money does it cost me?**
- Social Media
 - Porn
 - Drugs/Alcohol
 - Eating

3. **IDOLS** ask: **why have I chosen this idol? Do I really believe it will do for me?**
- Pride
 - Self
 - Pleasure
 - Hatred & Bitterness
 - Lust
 - Entertainment
 - Fear & Worry
 - My Appearance
 - Physical idols (people, cars, clothes, phones, shoes...)
 - Approval
 - The World
 - Success
 - Rules (as a means of self righteousness)
 - Religion (prove my worthiness to God)
 - Likes
 - Money

Ex. 20:4-5a "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them

4. **THINGS YOU ARE DOING - BUT MAY HAVE NOT BEEN "CALLED BY GOD TO DO**
- SPORTS:** Each sport requires a commitment– how great is the commitment? Has God confirmed it?
 - EDUCATION:** (AP/IB) – why am I doing them? How many can I really handle?
 - FRIENDS:** this is the BIGGEST factor in your moral/spiritual formation!
 - My Inner Core: they should be strong believers who will really love you!
 - **Discerning, choosing, and investing** with my friends!
 - OTHER:** clubs, hobbies, good things – that are only resume builders, not God given passions.

THROW OFF –

1. The SIN of C_____ – **the things I am doing by my choosing**

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are obvious, which are: adultery, sexual immorality, uncleanness, lustfulness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousies, outbursts of anger, rivalries, divisions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these; of which I forewarn you, even as I also forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit God's Kingdom. Gal. 5: 19-21

2. The SINS of O_____ - **the things God has commanded me that I am not doing**

Seek First His Kingdom and His Righteousness / to mediate on His word day and night,
to honor and obey my Parents / to be thankful in all things / to pray about everything and worry about nothing /
to let NO corrupt communication come out of my mouth – only what is edifying /
to love Him with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength / Exhorting one another daily + many others

3. The SINS of D_____ - **listening to the lack of peace we have about things**

God says whatever is not of faith, that we have doubts – it is sin
What are things you have doubts about? In what you think, say, do, watch, tolerate

RUN WITH

It is My RACE to run

I must do it with PERSEVERENCE

FIXING MY EYES ON

1. He is the author and perfecter of my F_____ - that is what He is most shaping in our lives.

2. He is my E_____ to follow – the joy set before Him, he despised the shame

3. Satan will seek to change your opinion about Jesus' Character, Motives, and Power

The Jesus you need to keep your eyes on in 2017

3 CHRISTOPHANIES – when Jesus showed up personally in the Old Testament that speak to us today!

1. **In the Garden of Eden** – He w_____ with them! **Genesis 3:8-24**

> Context: they had just sinned and hidden from Him.

> He dealt with the immediate consequence of their sin – cover their shame – notice “how”!

> He communicated the consequences and God's plan to restore relationship – personally.

* **Jesus is committed to pursuing us in relationship** – now from within us!

Will I listen to Him and share with Him my heart on a daily basis

2. **Daniels _____ who would not bow down to false idols.** Daniel 3:13-30

> They stood for their God and their convictions – and were willing to die for them!

> They believed God was worth worshipping alone – whether He rescued them or not.

* **Jesus came and stood with them in the midst of worst testing and certain death.**

Will my faith take me to places where God is my only hope and rescuer?

It is there that I will know Him as few others – intimacy is forged in the fire.

They got to see God's power as few others.

> It is here that even the world will see the power and glory of God!!

3. **Joshua right before he would take on the toughest battle he would face.** Joshua 5:13-15

> What Joshua was facing as he approached battle with Jericho?

> What was Jesus saying by His presence and the words He spoke with him?

Will I see things correctly and have the faith to trust God with the impossible – by God's hand?

Learning to take seriously God's promises to us: Exodus 14:13-14

“¹³ Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

¹⁴The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.”