

2018 New Years.... As We leave 2018 and enter into 2019...we have each possessed this year of our lives... we were responsible not for everything that happened in it...but we were responsible for how we handled it! we were responsible to have taken care of that year as best we could...in the scope of your life one year is a consist of a very large portion of your life or if your older one year consist of a smaller portion of your life however you were responsible to take care of year... scripture uses the word faithful...

Luke 16:10 "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

let me give you an example using our church...almost seven years ago His Place church merged with Christ Church and went from 5000 square feet of facility which we were responsible for 16 years to do ministry in and we were faithful and did all we could do to help people there...to our current 27,000 square foot campus in which to do ministry in... during that time we also reopened a His Place church back into our old facility... it has taken us 23 years to get to where we are at....from year one 25 people to now over 800 adults and children pass through our campuses weekly.

we were faithful with what we had...persevered year in and year out...and God added! but I was ready to quit numerous times...and almost did once...God spoke to me outside my office and said something I will never forget..

explain story...one day in late in the year 2005..."I will bless you if you stay and I will bless you if you go...but I gave you this"

- In other words ...you have possessed this territory for almost 10 years yet you have not owned it! you have not stepped up and taken responsibility for what I have given you...but I will still bless you if you leave it...or I will bless you if you stay...but do something with it!!!**
- at that time in late 2005 the church which I had been put in point position in...had about 45-55 adults attending on any give Sunday...10 years and a 20 person net increase...by any human standard is not very successful... he made no critique of what I was perceiving as pretty much failure.... not even a hint or comment on how little I had accomplished in ten years**
- God said he would bless me if I stayed or left...it was about me...he would bless me period!...**

- and what is the blessing? I have learned that his greatest blessing is this...he would never leave me or forsake me... his presence was and is with me!!
- that is the great blessing!! I will never leave you nor forsake you!!!

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5..... be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." ⁶ So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"^l

Matthew 28:20And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- This is our challenge this next year....you have been given 2018 which is a blessing from the Lord, because he was with you in it! he did not have to give it to you!...what you did with that blessing is your responsibility! Some did well some not...but you were blessed by him being with you ...
- And everyone in here appears to be given as far as I can tell...the opportunity to at least enter into 2019...and that alone is a blessing from God for he enters into it with you....but you have a responsibility to do something with it...

Own this year! its ups and downs ...success and failures trial and victories...and enter into 2019 owning it! How do you do this? Own yourself

What does own yourself mean?...Simple I won everything about me in life and every role I play..... large and small...

- **I own that God has a call on my life...I own that I must fulfill that call...I own all my responsibilities...I own that I am responsible to fulfill those responsibilities .. I own that I will need help ...I own that I will seek it out!!!**
- **Ownership is freedom!!! I get out of the blame game. the procrastination game...I become free to engage whatever it is...marriage, health, parenting...business...**
- **I own that I do not belong to me... I owe my life to God!! I own that!!**

1 Corinthians 6:20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. (your whole being)

- and I own that I honor God who own me by taking care of my Body!
- I take responsibility for my body! I cannot honor God by abandoning my being!!

Why is this important?...Without Ownership we live life wandering around looking for what to do...!! looking becoming what I own not doing what I already am responsible for...

Proverbs 29¹⁸ Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained.....nasb

- The word vision...in Hebrew is the word we use for scope... a rifle scope to focus...
- Unrestrained is the idea of wandering around aimlessly...sideways energy...instead of focusing we wander...
- When we don't know where we are going any direction is good
- **Vision and Ownership of attaining it ...changes everything!!**
- **Ownership of our lives creates the ability to have Maximum impact in every aspect of our lives**
- **Ownership of our lives gives us the ability to engage with maximum participation...**
- **Ownership of our lives delivers maximum reward...**
- **Maximum involvement ...delivers maximum reward...**
- **as you manage that well you possess greater ...your home your work your church your community....**
- **...We possessed little in Hb...managed it well...God has blessed us with greater territory so we must possess it well... This is what God wants ...**

Do you know that when God blesses you your life becomes more complicated!!!

We tend to think that as we are blessed by God our life becomes easier...and more comfortable...but that is not true...it becomes richer yes...but more complicated. Just as when we make poor choices our lives become more negatively complicated...when we follow God our lives become more complicated...but in a growing and blessing way...

Think about it... If you get married that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated

If you have children...that is a blessing but your life becomes more complicated...every step of the way there are new complications...

If you go to school that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated

If you get a promotion that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated

If you get sober that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated

If you follow Jesus that is a blessing... but your life becomes more complicated

If you serve others that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated...there is no such thing as blessing without complication...get used to it...embrace it...grow from it...enjoy it...dream bigger...

One of the reasons we draw back ...is because of complications...because we think that is bad...no-no-no that is normal...in fact it is evidence you are moving forward...

- in order to take care of my life I have to take care of my time....
- let me give you an example...Time..everyone has 24 hours a day...you either own that or it owns you...you are a victim of time...if only I had more time...I am too busy..etc. makes you a victim...but if I own my time I now have freedom to use it in the best of ways...
- You have to own the role of controlling your day! we each have 24 hours..and only 24 hours everyday...you have to own your days!
- I have to own that You have to own you have a role to play in the Kingdom!

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do..

- You have to own...you are the handiwork of God to do the work of God in our generation...
- You have to own you are a difference maker for the kingdom
- You have to own you belong to a team ...a church
- You have to own discovering the role you will play in the kingdom
- You have to own that role..
- You have to own doing what you need to do to play your role well!

Here is the truth...Once I won it all...that actually frees me to stop wasting energy ...on blaming...on expecting others to take ownership of my stuff...procrastinating wishing that what needs to get done will get done somehow some way if I just wait long enough..

- Owning frees me to stop being immobilized and moves me into action!! what stops us?
- One of the enemy's best strategies against us is to deceive us into becoming so entrenched in our physical, emotional, habitual, day to day lives that we are "pinned down" to use a military tactic so we are immobile.

- For all intent and purpose... if he can get us Immobilized
- so entrenched we are afraid to move into something different
- Strangled by the worries of this world...notice the term strangled...that is an immobilizing position.
- Mobility also has to do with flexibility...Because of God we have the power to change to move to grow, to act to influence to change not only us about our world!! !!!! that is mobility!!

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*****Jesus is a master at designing and reforming ...building ...refining our cups...making them even more valuable and useful.....

*****Notice behind me ... are two short fences made up of differing slats of wood... they are all similar in ways and all different in ways... they have differing grains and knots and cuts... all have different places they are placed for a purpose in the hands of the carpenter... They own that they are Wood! ...they have all faced the saw they have all know the hammer, they have all been pierced by nails and some have had holes drilled in them...all of this done by the carpenter...and they all continue to own that they are Wood! and because of thatthey have been made useful to the carpenter for multiple purposes.... now they are a decorative fence and they hold up lights ...in 2018...what they will be in 2019 is up to the carpenter!

now they are to own their job as wood fence posts...and when they are moved to something different they will own that too!

But you are much more valuable than that!! The church of Jesus has designed you to be a blessing to all kinds of people and cultures...this is the beauty of God's creativity...the master Human carpenter!

You need to know ...You have been chosen to be blessed and a blessing...

EPH 1: 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will--

- You were chosen He adopted you ...because he wanted too and it brings him joy...
- His grace... unmerited favor is freely given to us in Christ...but you have to own it yourself!! Then practice all time!!
- You were chosen by the God of Heaven to be in his family to be a blessing as he chooses to those on earth...

*John 14:12 I tell you the truth, **anyone** who has faith in me **will** do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

Do you hear that...You and I will do greater things than Jesus....in this world...and these things have been prepared before hand...How is that possible???

What greater things have I ever done than Jesus??? Well what can I think of??

- **I have lived longer on this earth...that is an accomplishment...**
- **Drove in so cal...traffic over forty five years...**
- **I have been married almost 38 years ...am a father...raised teenagers ...am a grand father..**
- ***Went to catholic school for twelve years..***
- **Drove a beer truck for a decade...Overcome the bondage of addiction....Overcome a sin soaked life...overcome much failure...and hopelessness...**
- **Suffered the untimely death of two children...I get to raise a second group of kids**
- **Been in full time ministry 30 years...have witnessed many lives enter into the Kingdom of God and be transformed.**

But that and much more does not seem greater then what Jesus **did...*Here is where the rubber meets the road...I don't think I have asked Jesus to do as great a things as I should have...or at least what is available...***

Listen...John 14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

- **Our problem is we don't ask big enough ...requests...to advertise God!! I don't ask to own more...I don't ask to conquer more...**

*RO 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than **conquerors** through him who loved us.*

- **One you are a conqueror...a territory taker....but you are greater than a conqueror???**
- **What is greater than a conqueror? A blesser! You were made to be a blessing to people!! A Conqueror who blesses ~~**

*PH 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably **more than** all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,*

- **It is his power working in us and for us ...which will accomplish all His will toward us and through us!!**

- Practice Believing this... until you become it, by knowing it experientially!!
Listen to this...

We are ambassadors of the Kingdom of God!!! taking over hostile territory from the enemy and setting the captives free...

MT 11: 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

Do you hear? The Kingdom of Heaven advances forcefully...and forceful men lay hold of it...

- Forceful means...powerful, vigorous, strong, unrelenting
- Lay hold means to gather territory...
- Our problem is we don't think highly enough about ourselves and who we are in Christ!!!
- Ask God to own more in your life for his purposes!

End

next week some how toos

end

- You must come against your own self destructive thoughts and beliefs to enter into the territory God has for you!!
usually fear and worry!

Matt 13:20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

- trouble (negative circumstances) and persecution... persecution is the pressure to change our belief and actions to those of another... this causes them to fear...fear cause us to stop moving forward...falland move away..instead of owning how they walk through it ...the trouble and persecution controls their walk

²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. worries of life and wealth...which is usually about the future...we become immobile.

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- You must possess the territory in your life right now to enter into other territory!!

How do you possess your own territory?? The circle! We need to do a SWOT on ourselves...check out our own territory ...

What are your Strengths

What are your Weaknesses

What are your Opportunities

What are your Threats...

1. First by taking responsibility for it!!
2. are you taking responsibility for you?
3. Are you taking responsibility for the territory of your family?
4. Are you taking responsibility for territory you hold in your employment?
5. Are you taking responsibility for the territory of your church?
6. Are you taking responsibility for the territory of the community you live in?
7. Are you taking responsibility to deal with the Threats??

- I have not stopped believing God...I want more territory

I have told you about the two words of prophecy spoken to me 25 years ago..."I will have a powerful ministry...well up until recently ...I have waited for that to take place...and looked around to see if what was happening was meeting my perieved expectation of what Powerful means to me....that is not faith ...that is living by sight...

Do you know how God does that? He gets all in your busiess...up close and personal...you are an original...

like Oswald Chambers said,..."Let God be as original with other people as he is with you"

- Listen to this interaction in this story of Jesus and Peter...specifically designed for Peter...he knew what water was needed..
- He knows what is needed for you too...

Matthew 17:24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” 25 “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own sons or from others?” 26 “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the sons are exempt,” Jesus said to him.

- **Question...Does he pay the required tax for the upkeep of the Temple...yes**
- **So he gives Peter a lesson...Jesus father owns the Temple ...so Jesus is exempt it is his home.....Helping Peter again to understand who Jesus is ...his identity ...though Peter has acknowledged it a number of times before...**
- **He like us is growing in understanding what that means...all well and good...**
- **Then it gets really weird...and funny**

27 “But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

- **So we don’t offend these guys who cannot handle it right now...the water being poured out...wisdom...**
- **Go upstairs and get out of my wallet the money and pay them... nope not that simple...**
- **He tells Peter to go fish... That is just plain crazy and seems totally unnecessary.... Why would he request this??**
 1. **Peter is a professional fisherman...maybe Jesus knew Peter still thought he knew best...at least in his own profession...and Jesus wanted to show him that Jesus knows Peters business better than Peter...**
 2. **Maybe it was simply an exercise specifically designed for Peter to test his obedience and faith...when it makes no sense in the natural...**

3. Peter had probably in all his years of fishing not caught a fish with money in his mouth...but oh well...
4. I wonder if Peter talked to anyone while he was fishing...it would be crazy for him to share ...what Jesus asked Him to do...I wonder how long it took him to catch that first fish...
5. I do know this...that test was personally designed for Peter to hear an obviously absurd request...to build some kind of faith and draw Peter closer to Jesus....
6. Bottom line is ...I don't know what it is completely about ...Maybe Peter never even really knew...
7. You know our biggest tests of faith comes when we don't know why God does something or request something at the time....

My conclusion...if Jesus asks you to do it...do it no matter how crazy it seems now...it will seem less crazy later...! It is designed to draw you closer to the Lord now...and t is preparation for the future...years later...

Acts 3:3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

- **You don't do the crazy now ..you wont do the impossible later...**
- **How many times have we stopped ...when we thought that is crazy**
- **I am telling you I am done with that....it is crazy for a goof ball like me...to want to on this community for the Lord...but today I am crazy enough to go for it...**

I feel crazy talking to you guys about this...I believe God wants us to change this community....and you know what that looks like...

1. Lets go back to the cups.... All the cups hold living water ...
2. All are designed to be drunk from...all designed to quench thirst...or pour out water..

Have everyone stand...

3. But what sets apart the special cups?
4. The ones that serve...put a towel around some...and actually serve the water...to those in need....in the way that is appropriate for the setting and the audience...
5. The water or message does not change...the method of delivery must
6. It is simply putting on a towel or an apron.....and meeting needs...

All our different cups working together...amazing... the greatest cup has the dirtiest towel wrapped around it...proximity is needed for planting...to plant a seed you have to touch the dirt...

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant. 12 For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.