

2012 NEW YEAR'S MESSAGES

TIME TO REFLECT AND TO RENEW

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-10; PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9; JAMES 4:13-15; 1 PETER 4:8-9



The Heart of the Matter

There are days when it's wise for us to stop and look and listen. Some people schedule such days once a month. Others make time once in every season of the year to consider their lives. Whatever the frequency, we place everything else on hold during these times, thinking through where we have been, where we are, and where we want to go. We scrutinize our lives, examine Scripture, and spend extended time in prayer as we gain a clearer sense of what God is doing in our lives and what He has for us in the future. As the New Year rolls around, take some time for reflection and renewal. Start today.



Discovering the Way

1. Looking Back (2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Philippians 4:4-9)

As you look back over the previous year, think carefully about the content of your thoughts and the distribution of your treasure.

2. Looking Forward (James 4:13-15)

As you look forward to the coming year, will you commit to giving the Lord your time so that you might touch the lives of others?

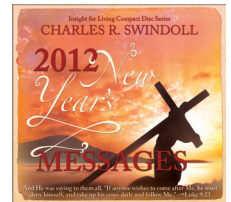


Starting Your Journey

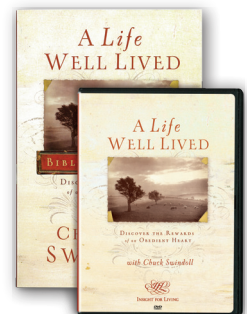
A commitment to living your life well and following Christ faithfully could very well make the difference between life and death!



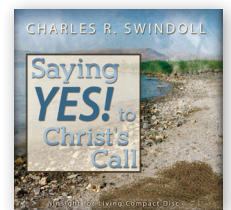
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2012 NEW YEAR'S MESSAGES
THREE "MUSTS" FOR A NEW YEAR
LUKE 9:22-25



The Heart of the Matter

Whenever a new year draws near, most of us follow certain routines to get ready for the upcoming twelve months. Some of us make resolutions—promises of what we'd like to start doing and what we'd like to stop doing. Others of us look over a calendar of the new year, jotting down notes to help us remember significant dates—birthdays, anniversaries, holidays. Still others have different routines, but all of us look forward to a new year with the hope that our lives will be lived with purpose. No one wants to look back at the end of the year and see squandered time. No one wants to drift aimlessly through life, doing things that don't have some lasting value. The difficulty lies in the fact that many of us simply don't know what we need to do to give life purpose. Well, Jesus has three answers—three "musts"—for each of us.



Discovering the Way

1. A Passion Prediction (Luke 9:22-23)

Jesus predicted His own passion—His own death and resurrection—as well as the passion each of His disciples would experience.

2. The Three "Musts" for a Purposeful Life (Luke 9:23-25)

To make life purposeful, we all must deny ourselves, must take up our crosses daily, and must follow Christ.



Starting Your Journey

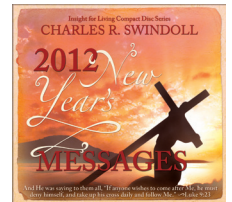
A life lived with purpose is one in which following Christ means more than believing in Him—it means obeying Him. Obeying Him means more than accepting truth—it means tasting death. And tasting death means more than occasional unselfishness—it means dying to self every day.



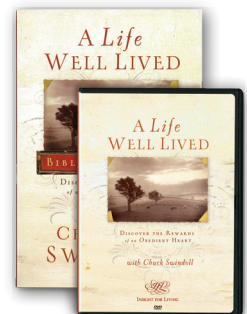
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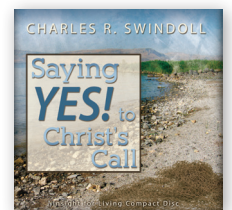
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