

Getting Started & Staying Focused

How To Have A Great Year, Starting Now #3 of 5
Gary Chappel - January 10, 2016

How do I make and keep my resolutions?

1. Take inventory of what I have been given.

*Be sure you know the **condition** of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;* **Proverbs 27:23 (NIV)**

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "These people say, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the Lord's house.'" ³ Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" **Haggai 1:2-4 (NIV)**

2. Give careful thought to my ways.

Give careful thought to the paths for your feet, and be steadfast in all your ways. **Proverbs 4:26 (NIV)**

Now this is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." ⁷ This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸ Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the Lord. ⁹ "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the Lord Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house. ¹⁰ Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. ¹¹ I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the olive oil and everything else the ground produces, on people and livestock, and on all the labor of your hands." **Haggai 1:5-11 (NIV)**

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple. **I Corinthians 3:16-17 (NIV)**

3. Include God in your examination.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. **Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV)**

4. Take some ACTION!

So the Lord stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of the whole remnant of the people. They came and began to work on the house of the Lord Almighty, their God... **Haggai 1:14 (NIV)**

5. Persevere.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **Luke 8:15 (NIV)**
