

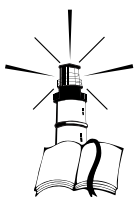
<sup>22</sup> You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (*Eph 4:22-24 NIV*)

*A Blessed  
New Year  
to All!*



*Service of  
Worship &  
Communion*

Sunday, 3rd January, 2016



**Berean Bible Church**

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:40 a.m. • Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30 p.m.

Passage Road, St. Michael • Rev. Ronald Trotman, Pastor

Tel: 571-4259, 426-4707

ALL ARE WELCOME

# Order of Service

Ministry of Music – Choir

Invocation

Hymn # 9

Hymn # 20

Hymn # Lord I Would Own Thy Tender Care

1st Scripture Reading – Psalm 122

Hymn # 128

Prayer

Notices – Offering

Ministry of Music – Choir

Hymn # 29

Message – Ps. Ronald Trotman

Hymn # 876

Distribution of Elements

Special Offering

2nd Scripture Reading – Psalm 61

Ministry of Music – Bro. Owen Thompson

Benediction

## Please remember to pray for:

- God's continued guidance in 2016
- The building project – Complete & Occupy
- The persecuted church
- The outreach ministries of the church
- The work of the Gideons, The Bible Society, CEF and ISCF
- The sick and shut-ins



# 8 Ways to Grow Your Faith in 2016

**No one becomes godly by accident. You can grow spiritually in 2016. You can become a better person. You can deepen your walk with God. You can change.**

**You can deepen your faith next year, but you must be intentional about it. Here are eight steps you can take that will help you grow as a Christian in the new year.**

## 1. Meet with God before you check Facebook

We live in a social media world. We text, we tweet, we update Facebook, we post our projects on Pinterest, and we put photos on Instagram. Some days I feel like I live on Facebook. And I like to start my day checking my Twitter feed. While there is nothing wrong with social media, it can control us if we're not careful.

Start with God next year. Commit yourself to reading God's Word and praying before you get absorbed in the latest updates. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Your day will go better when you start with God, not with social media.

## 2. Choose a book of the Bible to study this year

Many people will start reading through the Bible in January. Nothing wrong with that. I encourage you to read through the whole Bible in 2016, especially if you've never done it before. But there is a great value in digging deeply into one book of the Bible and letting its message soak into your heart. You could read Genesis or Proverbs or Daniel or Mark or 1 Peter. If you don't know where to begin, start with Ephesians. Read it at least 20 times. Read it slowly. Read it fast. Read a few verses a day. Use a Bible commentary to help you with difficult passages. Ephesians is so rich that you could spend all of 2016 studying it.

## 3. Buy a study Bible

Owning a study Bible is like having a seminary faculty on your bookshelf. A good study Bible has notes on every passage, book introductions, outlines, maps, charts, diagrams, and illustrations. Today you have many excellent options: The the NKJV Study Bible, the MacArthur Study Bible, the Life Application Bible, the Ryrie Study Bible, the Reformation Study Bible, and ESV Study Bible, to name only a few. You'll never regret investing money in a good study Bible. It will jumpstart your knowledge of God's Word.

## 4. Get involved in a small group

While it is possible to grow on your own, you will grow much faster when you are involved with a small group of other Christians. You could join a Sunday School class, a men's group, a women's group, a BSF group, a Bible study group, or a prayer team. The possibilities are endless. Don't sit on the sidelines. Share your life with other Christians who can encourage you, pray with you, laugh with you, and cry with you. Taking part in a healthy small group is like taking an energy shot for your soul.

## 5. Memorize Psalm 1

That's the one that starts this way:

*"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night."*

Psalm 1 stands at the head of the psalter for a reason. It describes the fundamental difference between a life lived for self versus a life lived for God. Because we live in a me-centered world, we need to tattoo these verses on our heart so we won't forget them.

Start with Psalm 1 and memorize a verse or two each day. You could easily finish it in a week. After that, go on to Psalm 2 or Ephesians 1 or 1 Corinthians 3 or Matthew 5:1-16. Whatever passage you choose, commit yourself to storing God's truth in your heart this year.

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### 6. Do some Bible listening

Start by downloading these two apps: YouVersion and Bible.Is. Bible listening means that instead of reading the Bible, you listen as someone reads it aloud. The Bible.Is app contains hundreds of audio versions of the Bible, including tribal languages from around the world. They also include dramatized versions that include music and other sound effects. After listening to a large part of the Bible on audio, I can testify that many passages came alive to me for the first time, even though I had read them many times on my own.

### 7. Become a quick forgiver

Mark Twain once remarked that forgiveness is the fragrance the violet yields to the heel that has crushed it. Easy to say, hard to do. Make up your mind that you won't be a grievance collector in 2016. "Love doesn't keep score of the sins of others" (1 Corinthians 13:5 MSG). Add to that 1 Peter 4:8, "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." Love has a short memory and sealed lips. We need to hear this word because others will indeed fail us a "multitude" of times. Sometimes the people we love the most will hurt us deeply. Love expects others to fail, expects to be hurt and expects to be used unfairly. It goes on loving anyway.

There is nothing sadder than a bitter Christian. Don't fall into that trap this year. Be a quick forgiver.

### 8. Pray for missionary eyes

Every day you meet people who need the help only you can give. Some of them need a word of encouragement, and you are the only one who can give them that word. Some of them are staggering beneath a heavy load, and you are the only one who can lift that burden from their shoulders. Some of them are about to quit, and you are the only one who can keep them in the race. Some of them have been hit with an incredible string of trials, and you are the only one who can help them keep going.

Pray that God will give you Missionary Eyes to see the real needs of the people you meet. Pray that God will bring at least one person across your path who needs the help only you can give. That's a prayer God will answer, for there are folks all around you who are just barely making it. You see them where you work, and you live next door to them. Your children go to school with their children. They are out there waiting for someone to give them help.

So there you have it. Here are eight ways you can grow your faith in 2016. But remember the key point: No one becomes godly by accident. Intentionality is the key. If you want to grow this year, you can. With God's help, you can be a different person 365 days from now.

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## January Birthdays

- |                         |                            |                         |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1st – Winston Gibbs     | 10th – Joyce Wells         | 28th – Bradford Jackson |
| 4th – Harold Lucas      | 11th – Judane Mitchell     | 30th – Gregory Douglas  |
| 5th – Bertram Hoyte     | 15th – Hilton Piggott      | 31st – Joan Shepherd    |
| 6th – Christopher Boyce | 19th – Gary Lloyd          | <b>February</b>         |
| 8th – Patrick Skeete    | 21st – Marion Manning      | 1st – Tony Montague     |
| 9th – Joy Banfield      | 23rd – Gwendolyn Goodridge | 2nd – Rupert Sealy      |
|                         | – Truneal Kwang            |                         |

## Anniversaries

25th – Tyrone & Julia Lowe