

Emergency Preparedness Plan

Key to relationship - **Communication**

Prediction - **Suffering**

Emergency Checklist - Praying Through Suffering

Daniel 1-3

(1) Resolve your mindset **beforehand**.

Romans 12

(2) **Declare** your beliefs to God.

Psalm 1

(3) Create **altars** of his faithfulness.

1 Samuel 7

(4) Pray with **no strings attached**.

Daniel 3:16-18

(5) Hold on **tightly**, let go **lightly**.

Matthew 26:39

(6) Pray that he **works** for your **good**.

Romans 8:26-30

Taking It Home

Do: Ask **God** to make sense of your **pain**.

Don't: Ask your **pain** to make sense of **God**.

Food for Thought
For the week of December 31, 2017
(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. There's no holiday that motivates change like New Year's Eve. For many of us that means new goals and resolutions in 2018. What's also true is that most resolutions don't last for more than a few weeks. The good news is that God is working year round and can help us bring about change more than we can on our own. How do the following verses further illustrate this idea of God working in us to bring about change?

2 Corinthians 5:17 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Romans 6:4 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 8:11 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Can you think of any ways you've changed because of God's work in your life?

2. This weekend Christopher reminded us that as followers of Jesus we will face trouble. Despite this, God has given us many assurances that could help us when facing hardship. How might the following verses serve as a comfort to someone facing trials, frustrations or hardship?

Lamentations 3:22-24 *New International Version (NIV)*

²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

1 Corinthians 15:54-58 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Romans 8:31-39 *New International Version (NIV)*

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We each react to struggles differently. Do you notice any themes or patterns within yourself when facing hardship?

3. Take some time to think through any goals you have for 2018. Can you think of any spiritual goals you'd like to work on in the new year?