

# New Year, New You: New Purpose

By Gary Hoag, January 28, 2024

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding.

Proverbs 4:7

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach different teachings and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.

1 Timothy 1:3-5

They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption, for people are slaves to whatever masters them.

2 Peter 1:19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed.

Luke 4:18

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

Luke 16:9

1. **Buy stuff you need and tell your desires to God.** God knows you need possessions. When you make them your idol, they

make you a slave. You don't need everything you want. Tell your desires to God.

- 2. **Enjoy and share experiences as a lifestyle.** A bucket list of personal pleasures will only consume your focus. As you make friends for eternity, instead use wealth to love and serve others in community.
- 3. **Put money in play and release its power to do good.**  
You show God you trust in Him by putting His money to work. You won't be destitute but will find your purpose to distribute. And you find life.

Reflection Questions

- 1. In searching for purpose, which area tries to captivate your heart? Possessions, Pleasures, or Power?
- 2. How do contentment, enjoyment, and sharing release us from being captives in bondage to serve as conduits of blessing?