

PK's Perspectives... 2019 Year of Restoration

What did you NOT do in 2018 that at some point during the year you had seriously and sincerely contemplated doing? I'm not asking about 2018 New Year's resolutions made and forgotten. I'm not asking about a "To Do" list of 2018 projects that you wanted to engage but never found the impetus to get started or, having started the project, you lacked the discipline to finish the project. I'm asking you about unfulfilled intentions connected to your personal spiritual growth and unfinished intentions involving your relationships with the people in your circle of human connections. Recognizing what you intended but DID NOT attempt or complete in 2018 should give you some guidance related to setting priorities for 2019.

Unfulfilled intentions connected to your personal spiritual growth In 2018, did you invest time and exercise self-discipline in these areas that are critical to vibrant spiritual health:

- Having uninterrupted conversations w/God everyday (prayer)
- Digging into Scripture and allowing the Word to shape your life/thoughts/actions
- Worshiping with the Body regularly while actively serving in/through your church
- Accountability to other believers for your thoughts, habits, attitudes and actions
- Intentionality about sharing the Gospel of Jesus with people lost in their sin

These are not the only areas of importance to personal spiritual growth but these certainly qualify as "biggies" on the list of spiritual priorities.

Listen friend - I want to remind you that spiritual growth does not happen accidentally or without personal investment; in fact, the opposite is much truer. Spiritual apathy and weakness are absolutely taking root in your life if you are not investing time and exercising self-discipline in the areas that lead to spiritual maturity. Do not point the finger at your pastor or Sunday School teacher or spouse or circumstances for your lack of motivation to pursue intimacy with God! You have been overwhelmed with God's ridiculous love if indeed you have confessed Jesus as your Savior and King - His love should be all the motivation you need for investing in spiritual intimacy.

Unfinished intentions involving your relationships with the people in your circle of human relationships In 2018, did you allow broken or strained relationships to hang around in the nether world of unresolved conflict...futilely thinking the conflict would be resolved or forgotten after enough time passed by? Outside of leading a lost person into a saving relationship with Jesus, there is nothing that reveals our faith so clearly as when we intentionally seek forgiveness, offer forgiveness, and pursue restoration in the bruised relationships that confront all of us at one time or another. Jesus says in John 15:12: "This is my commandment: love each other in the same way I have loved you." At the heart of the Gospel is relationship - God's desire for restored relationship with His creation; the same should be found at the core of our faith - a desire for restored relationship with our fellow humans. The Bible says in Hebrews 12:14 to "work at living in peace with everyone." So, if there is in your life

- someone to whom you need to confess a wrong, make amends, and ask forgiveness;
- someone to whom you need to offer forgiveness and restoration;
- someone who unknowingly hurt you and the wound still festers;
- someone who was unknowingly wronged or disparaged or taken advantage of by you;

live your faith by making things right with that person! Make 2019 your Year of Restoration, and experience the healing of "Jesus love" in your relationships. Cya Sunday, PK.