

ANOTHER YEAR . . . GET A LIFE!

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

PSALM 90:1-4, 9-10; JAMES 4:13-15



The Heart of the Matter

Standing between two years is a good place to evaluate our lives. Looking back, we remember the year that has passed—its delights and disappointments fresh in our memories. Looking around, we see clearly where we are—able to make good choices based on our actual circumstances. And looking ahead, we anticipate another twelve months that hold the possibilities of high hopes and new dreams. As we take in this panorama of our lives, let's look closely at three passages of Scripture that will help us clarify our thinking about where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.



Discovering the Way

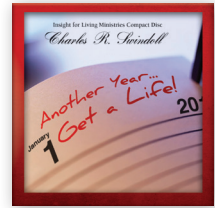
1. Where Have We Been? (Psalm 90:1-4, 9-10)

As we look *far back* into the past of not just our history but human history, we learn a couple of truths that should serve as foundation stones to our lives.

First, we discover that God is God and we are not. Only He is infinite, eternal, and transcendent. We are, by contrast, finite, transitory, and limited. Second, we discover that God controls and we do not. He controls death and life, night and day, seasons and time.



Tools for Digging Deeper

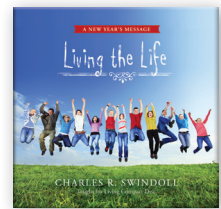


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A New Year's Message

by Charles R. Swindoll

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Living the Life: New Year's 2013

by Charles R. Swindoll

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2012 New Year's Messages

by Charles R. Swindoll

CD series



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2. Where Are We Now? (Philippians 3:10-14)

With God rooted at the very base of our lives, we can better gain perspective today. Philippians 3 teaches us that we should forget the past and anticipate what's next. In other words, we need to let go of those things in our past that drag us down. *Looking around us where we are*, we need to turn the page of our lives as we look forward to what lies ahead.

3. Where Are We Going? (James 4:13-15)

Looking to the future, we realize that it is easiest if we walk by sight, plan all the details, and run ahead to get the lay of the land. Instead, God asks us to live by faith, to pray, and wait on Him to act on our behalf.

Therefore, looking back, God is God, we are not. God controls, we do not. Looking around us where we are, close the chapter, turn the page. Looking to the future, life is brief. Handle with care. Life is a gift. Spend it well and spend it wisely.

We serve a great God. He loves to give His people great things. So as the future unfolds, ask of Him something great. Lay it before Him. "Is it Your will, Father? . . . I ask for this." Don't be surprised if it's even better.



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Starting Your Journey

As we move forward into a new year, we would do well to remember these four “greats”:

- *We have a GREAT God!* Our God has within Him power to accomplish all things He desires to do.
- *God is able to make this a GREAT year!* We might be looking ahead with some trepidation about the future. Don't forget that God can make this year a great one for serving Him.
- *Let's not be afraid to ask GREAT things of Him.* This is where the shoes hit the pavement. If we believe that God can do great things, why don't we ask Him for them?
- *The Lord delights in giving His children GREAT gifts.* God loves to give—it's in His nature to do so.

Do you believe that God can do great things? What great thing have you asked—or can you ask—Him for recently?

