

## **A Whole New Year**

A boy told his father, "Dad, if three frogs were sitting on a limb that hung over a pool, and one frog decided to jump off into the pool, how many frogs would be left on the limb?"

The dad replied, "Two."

"No," the son replied. "There are three frogs, and one decides to jump, how many are left?"

The dad said, "Oh, I get it, if one decides to jump, the others would too.

So, there are none left."

The boy said, "No dad, the answer is three.

The frog only DECIDED to jump."

Does that sound like last year's plans for the New Year?

Great inspiration and great resolutions, but often times we only decide, and months later we are still on the same limb of do-nothing.

***Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:***

***2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;***

***3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;***

***4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;***

***5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;***

***6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;***

***7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;***

***8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.***



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***9 What gain has the worker from his toil?***

***10 I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with.***

***11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.***

***12 I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live;***

***13 also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.***

Solomon is telling us that God has a plan for all of us and a cycle for everything we are planned to do in accordance with His will.

To do all that our life demands of us we must find balance.

*The first thing you have to do, if you are going to have balance in your life is:*

**You have to discover your PURPOSE.**

What is your purpose in this world?

This is the core question of our lives.

If you have not thought seriously about this, you have not taken life seriously.

Many of the problems in people's lives would be settled if they understood their purpose in life and lived it out.

The Bible says, ***"If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord" (Romans 14:8).***

If it is true that we belong to the Lord, then we have the obligation to live for the Lord.



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As the Word says, ***“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).***

Our lives are not our own.

They do not belong to us.

We belong to God.

The Bible says, ***“Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:12-13).***

Your purpose is to live out and fulfill the purpose of God for your life.

He is working to unfold that plan in your life, and your responsibility is to cooperate with his work in you.

***The Bible says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).***

The grand purpose of your life is to know God and have an ongoing relationship with him that brings him glory in the way you live your life.

The Bible says, ***“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).***

What is your purpose?

It is to know God through his Son Jesus Christ and live for him.

Your purpose is to do as much good as you can do for him and others.

You are not here to serve and please yourself; you have a higher calling.

If you don’t understand your purpose, then your life is built on the wrong foundation.

And if your life is built on the wrong foundation, it does not matter how magnificent the structure is, it will crumble and fall.

Your primary purpose here is not to be successful or have a wonderful career.

Your purpose is not to be happy in your earthly accomplishments or earn a lot of money.

Your purpose is not even to find love and have a family.

The Bible says, ***“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).***

It is not that these other things are bad, they are not, it is just that they cannot come before the main purpose for which you were created — to know God and glorify him with your life.

When you get that straight, then the rest will all fall into place.

*The second thing you have to do, if you are going to have balance in your life is:*

**You have to establish your PRIORITIES.**

You may have a firm grasp of what your real purpose is in this world.

You may understand that your life belongs to God, and that you are to live for him rather than yourself.

But now you need to understand God’s specific plan for you.

**Begin by asking yourself, “What are my gifts?”**

What are the specific talents and interests that God has put into my life?

How can I use these to fulfill his purpose for me in this world?”

The reason that these questions are important is that you may be doing many good things, but you may not be doing the things that God has in mind for you.

Your area of interest may be the gift God has given you to promote growth and influence for His kingdom.

Setting priorities is not about choosing between what is good and what is bad.

That has been settled when you decide to live out your God-given purpose in life.

Priorities have to be set when the choice is between what is good and what is best — between what will be beneficial and what is actually God's will for you.

He has made you with particular interests, skills and gifts.

Go in the direction of your interests and gifts, because this is how and why God has created you.

It is about getting the most from your life.

Setting priorities helps you to trim down your involvement to a reasonable level.

*The third thing you have to do, if you are going to have balance in your life is:*

**You have to make your PLAN.**

You can understand your purpose and set your priorities, but if you have no plan on how to make it happen, it will never happen.

Nothing is going to happen until you make it happen.

It is too easy to let life sweep you along and your agenda be filled with the urgent little things of the day.

If you are not deliberate in planning out your life, your life will drift, and life will "just happen."

You want your life to happen on purpose.

If you can't get everything done, it is because you are trying to do more than God wants you to do.

You have enough time to do what God wants you to do.



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***Ephesians 5:15-20*** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,  
16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

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**How, *Ephesians 5: 15-20***