

**New Hope For A New Year
New Year's Day
January 1, 2017**

**Our hope is an optimistic outlook
based on God's powerful promises.**

If You Want New Hope For The New Year...

1. Find some dissatisfaction.

Philippians 3:13a (NIV) *"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it."*

Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV) *"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."*

2. Find some devotion.

Philippians 3:13b (NIV) *"But one thing I do:"*

Mark 10:21 (NIV) *"Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' He said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me.'"*

Luke 10:41-42 (NIV) *"'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things,⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'"*

The little [a] is a footnote: Some manuscripts say it like this...
"but only one thing is needed."

John 4:34 (NIV) *"'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work.'"*

Psalm 27:4 (NIV) *“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.”*

3. Find some direction.

Philippians 3:13c (NIV) *“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead...”*

It’s human nature to want to do better.

It’s also human nature to fail.

“Success is the ability to move from one failure on to the next.”

Winston Churchill

4. Find some determination.

Philippians 3:14 (NIV) *“I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Luke 9:62 (NIV) *“Jesus replied, ‘No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.’”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

The people of this world focus on

what they are overcoming.

Followers of Christ focus on

what they are becoming.

“No matter what you did in the past, your future is spotless!”

John R. Rice

Focus Forward!