

9. **Philippians 3:13-14** – What Paul did was not easy but it's important for all believers: "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of [the fullness of eternal life] yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." // Paul could have been depressed about his past sins of *severely persecuting followers of Jesus*. But, instead, he knew – by God's grace – that His sins were forgiven and separated from him, "as far as the east is from the west" (Ps. 103:12). Therefore, he focused on ♦living for Jesus and ♦finally being called home to Paradise!

10. **Colossians 3:23** – So much of life is about attitude – ♦how we view the Bible, ♦how we interact with others, ♦how we deal with difficult situations, ♦how we approach our work. Here is some great advice: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men..."

- a. Even though we see our boss, let us remember that our **Ultimate Boss** is our Lord Jesus! He †is the Son of God, †took away our sins, †is fully aware of our job situation.
- b. Therefore, regardless of our circumstances – good or bad, let us do our VERY BEST to

GOD'S GLORY! When we do so, the Spirit might even use us to transform our earthly boss into our brother or sister in Christ!

11. **Psalm 37:4-5** – How are we living for the Lord – ✓*forcing ourselves to do His will* OR ✓*doing so gladly, knowing His ways are best*: "Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it." // Did you catch that HUGE promise? When we **gladly** seek to **know** and **follow** the will of the Lord, He will give us those deep and pure desires in our hearts. The world says, "No," but let us – as Bible-believing Christians – be sure: **HE WILL DO IT!**

Conclusion

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, we thank You for Your word! Help us to go forward to
➡believe it and ➡gladly do it!

This site inspired some ideas in this sermon: [25 Bible Verses to Inspire a Fresh Start in the New Year](#)

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Bible Verses to Guide and Bless Us



Introduction

Dear friend: It's common for our lives to become cluttered and complicated and worldly. Therefore, on various occasions – ✓a **new year**, ✓a **birthday**, ✓after an **illness**, ✓after the **death of a loved one**, or ✓after the **end of an important relationship**, it's **healthy** to:

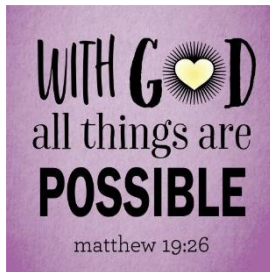
- Evaluate our lives.
- Leave our sins and foolishness behind.
- Step into the future with clarity and optimism.

As I touch on eleven Bible passages, may the Holy Spirit grant us guidance, follow-through, and countless blessings!

Bible Verses

1. **Isaiah 43:18-19** – Let us unchain ourselves from the past and know that all things are possible with God: "Do not... ponder things of the past [when I brought you out of Egypt,

parted the sea, and fed you with manna]. Behold, I will do something new [something much greater – by sending the Messiah], Now it will spring forth; ...I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.” // Let us remember the LORD’s past blessings and give Him thanks **but let us especially look forward to the awesome blessings yet to come through Jesus!**



2. **Lamentations 3:22-23** – **Let us recall these words every day:** “The LORD’S lovingkindnesses [love for us and the generous things He does for us] indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” // Wow, they **never** cease, they are **new** every morning!



3. **2 Corinthians 5:17** – **Let us remember who we are through knowing Jesus:** “...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old

things passed away; behold, new things have come.” // Now, being children of God, Let us ♦let go of the old **and** ♦live as God’s holy children!

4. **Jeremiah 29:11** – **Let us permit the joy of God’s plans to dominate our thoughts. The LORD declared:** “...I know the plans that I have for you, ...plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.” // Let us always cling to God’s **never-failing promises!**



5. **Philippians 1:6** – **God will finish what He has started:** “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work [of salvation] in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” // God has saved us! Now, **let us cooperate with His work in our lives!**
6. **Proverbs 3:5-6** – **It’s normal and natural for us to do what WE desire, but what is best?** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.” // What does that mean? Let us ♦be open to God’s word, ♦believe it is best, and ♦follow it in every decision going forward!

7. **Psalm 32:8** – **We are not on our own, the LORD said:** “I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” // Therefore, let us ♦pay close attention to the LORD, ♦follow His teaching, and ♦be at peace – **because He is watching over us!**
8. **Ephesians 4:22-24** – **Let us put off the old and put on the new:** “...in reference to your former manner of life, ...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit [desires of dishonesty], and... be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” // When ♦we are tempted to sin AND ♦we want to sin, *let us know it’s a lie – it’s dishonest!* Even though our old nature says “**Yes,**” let our new nature say “**No,**” and **gladly go God’s way!** This is an excellent time to get rid of our bad habits and **replace them with new ones that align with the Bible!**

