

Making the Most of 2017

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I. Introduction

- A. “Fall down seven times, stand up eight.” – Japanese Proverb
- B. Proverbs 24:16a (NIV) *For though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again.*

II. We Must Have a PLAN for 2017

- A. Proverbs 16:9 (ESV) *The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*
- B. Proverbs 17:24 (ESV) *The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.*

III. How to Make the Most of 2017

A. Take RESPONSIBILITY

- 1. Galatians 6:5 (NIV) *For each one should carry their own load.*
- 2. Proverbs 22:13 (NLT) *The lazy person claims, "There's a lion out there! If I go outside, I might be killed!"*

B. Take INVENTORY

- 1. What have I LEARNED?
- 2. What are my ASSETS?
- 3. Who can HELP?

C. Act in FAITH

- 1. Matthew 9:29 (NIV) *“According to your faith let it be done to you.”*
- 2. “Whether you think you can, or think you can’t, you’re right.” - Henry Ford
- 3. Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) *In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.*
- 4. Proverbs 29:25 (NIV) *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.*

D. Refocus our THOUGHTS

- 1. Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

2. Romans 12:2 (NIV) *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*
3. Psalm 1:1-3 (NIV) *¹Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, ²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.*

E. Trust GOD

1. Zechariah 4:6b (NIV) *'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.*
2. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*

IV. Conclusion