

2017!

Part 3: Intentionality with our resources!

Our word for 2017 is: “Intentionality!”

Intentionality: deliberate actions taken purposely, pointedly, eyes wide open! Intentionality: our beliefs, thoughts, hopes, abilities being directed and applied toward an objective!

This is our month of vision, visioning, and, engineering our part of God’s vision! The goal of every engineer is to take things out of the realm of concept and make them work!

Moving with intentionality... In our homes! This “sanctuary” is the place where all “dominion” in life flows from! **Gen 1.26,28** *We tear it/“let” it be torn to our own hurt!*

On the job! Right performance, for the right person let’s us return home everyday in peace... With the promise of blessing from God! **Eph 6.8 Col3.24 1Pet 2.18**

For the church! Do good to all men, but especially those who are of the household of faith! **Gal 6.9,10 1Th 5.15**

Personally: to define, set and maintain our personal stand of faith... “Whatever He says...” would be the best! **To disciple with interpretation...** We must be ready to give an account for what and why we believe what we do! **To stand by God’s word even if we can’t stand on it ourselves...** None of us will take our stand perfectly, but we must remember the perfection of God’s word! We have no power/right to change God’s word to fit/relieve our performance!

Want to open a topic that affects us on all four levels! Intentionality with our resources!

Without Intentionality... Our finances open a door to family upheaval on many levels! From environments of arguments... To poverty mentality of “never enough!” Money is a great servant for good works or a dark *spiritual* task master/man! “You cannot serve God and mammon, for you will love and hold to one and hate and despise the other!” **Lk 16.9-13** “The least of things on the earth,” without intentional direction, can be the disrupter of the most important of thing on the earth, family!

Our “jobs” become far too important! Without things working properly for us with God... **Mal 3.8-12 Mt 6.33** We substitute His promise to provide and promote, with our own best efforts! We get the idea that we have earned what we have... and what we earn, and posses, becomes our life! **Lk 12.15** “We get all we can, can all we get, and live on our can!” **Lk 12.16-21** foolish! Our jobs are mission fields and God makes them pay the support of the missionaries!

Keeps us, as the Church, from reaching God’s intended goals... As individuals: “to be blessed, overcoming, desired models, generous, conferring benefits, thoroughly furnished! **As a group:** to relieve the suffering of many, be a community resource, help smaller churches, plant new ones, support mission/missionaries! We will always be able to do some, we never consume all our seed... But nowhere close to our potential! **Won’t happen without intentionality!**

Asides... Very “portfolio” minded! “According to the grace given by God, as wise masterbuilders we lay the foundation and others build... and whatever any man builds on this foundation; gold, silver, precious stones, wood hay or stubble, it will be tried by fire in the day, and if any of it survives the fire, there will be a reward!” **1Cor 3.10-14** Defines a cooperative effort between God and mankind in Christ! Build well, receive a reward. Build poorly, suffer loss!

We take deliberate action to make sure we are building on the foundation of Life with gold, silver and precious stones! Not for décor, boasting or bling, but for richness with God/for eternity! The people who have given here, from the beginning to now... Have treasure on their foundations that they know little/nothing about! And our presentation has had an effect on many other churches... All adding to our foundation! ***So, intentionality with our resources this year will include the addition of dividends!***

We will not have control over ourselves or our finances... We will not “keep it” amoral! We will “let” it become a demi-god! It will exercise control and deceive us! And in many cases, we will change the truth of God’s word into a lie! ***“I would never do that!” REALLY?*** “God doesn’t care about our money!” “God doesn’t need our money!” “We only give what we can give cheerfully!” “The tithe is Old Testament law!”

The Tithe... *Is an act of pre-law worship by the father of our faith, Abraham!* Gen 14.20 An expression of joy for *blessing*; gratitude for *victory*; a tribute of *allegiance*; an act of *submission*! ***Was inserted into the law 500 yrs. later!*** Lev 27.30ff Num 18.24ff Deut 12.6-11 The law is for the unknowing/rebellious! The law passes away for Spirit-led people because no longer ignorant or rebellious! ***Bro’t into the NT as a minimum of cheerful giving!*** Mt23.23 Lk11.42 Heb7.8 ***Simply, the “tenth” (10%) of our income, and it belongs to God!*** Lev 27.30 “It is holy (qodesh: consecrated, dedicated, hallowed) unto the Lord...” “Every devoted (cherem: doomed by dedication, [ac]cursed) thing is most holy to the Lord!” v28 Not giving it is “robbing the Lord!” “Will a man rob God? Yet you have! You ask how? In tithes and offerings!” Mal 3.8 Robbery is theft... “stealing from God!” Like Judas stealing from the bag? John 12.6

With Intentionality... *Family will be in covenant with God for blessings, not torn up from financial strain or strife!* “See if I will not open the windows of heaven(...) and pour out a blessing that can’t be contained. I will rebuke the devourer for your sake. He will not destroy what you plant. What you plant will not be cut down before its time to be harvested. And all will see and say, ‘you are blessed’ for you will be a delight in their eyes!” Mal 3.10-12

Career will be experienced with greater freedom! Protection, provision, blessings and promotion comes from the Lord... The One you are truly working for... Now free to focus on the people around you (mission)! ***Finances are in proper order...*** “Mammon” is not driving you with fear, uneasiness, apprehension of future! No longer working for “more to put in a bag with holes...” Haggai 1.6-11

The Church will meet its potential! As blessed as we are... we haven’t begun to come near what can be done! ***In our local community...*** The works the Lord gave us from the beginning have been waiting for faith! ***In our denomination...*** So surprised at our platform and *launch pad!* ***Around the country and world through our missions and missionaries!*** “Paco” and Team... alone...

Personally thrive under the strength of faith and obedience! God is pleased with faith! Heb 11.6 Obedience brings all kinds of blessings! Deut 7.12-26 28.1-14 Intimacy with God! John 14.23 Power to “walk on water” Mt 14.28,29 To partner for miracles Act 3.4ff To bring multitudes to salvation! A2.41 To confer benefits like God! 1Tim 6.17-19

To hear... *You are my beloved... you have been a good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord!*

All for a dime on a dollar!