

Blessings and Happy New Year Templo NUEVA VIDA!

PREPARING FOR GOD'S DIVINE PURPOSES IN OUR LIFE, AND SERVICE IN THIS NEW YEAR, 2023.

This year that has come to an end has quite possibly been a year in which we feel that we did not achieve what we would have wanted. Maybe some of us feel that we have failed in some areas of our lives. Perhaps we think that we have failed as a parent, in our marriage, in our work life, or in our Christian walk. We have to recognize that experiencing failure is something that is difficult to face and not easy to overcome.

The best we can do is to prepare and posture ourselves to seek and receive God's blessings for this new year, 2023. It is important that we understand what God's blessings for us, in His divine purpose, mean for our lives.

The things that God allows to happen in our lives have meaning and have a divine purpose. Although not everything happens for a specific reason, what we find in scripture is that **God will redeem, restore, help, and cause a good outcome for those of us who love and follow Him.**

This means that experiencing failure in life does not mean that we are a failure, or that we can never succeed, because success is determined at the end of the process and in this process called life there will be many failures, but these failures can be part of the path that leads to God's blessing and His purposes.

In this year 2023, may we take up the challenge to leave a mark of blessing in the lives of others, in our family, in our marriage, in the lives of our children, in our church, and in our community. To do this, let us reflect on the emphasis of our week of prayer, "DIVINE PURPOSES FOR 2023." Each day of this week you can PRAY and WORK toward God's divine purpose in your life that will ultimately make a difference... Amen!

-Your Pastors,

Luis, Rosie, and Marcos Correa

First Day – Monday, January 2

COMMIT TO LIVING SOBERLY

On our 1st day of our week of spiritual emphasis, in prayer, Templo NUEVA VIDA must make a commitment to live soberly in this year, 2023.

It is wise for us as children of God, from time to time, to make sure that our lives are oriented toward God as our only and legitimate focus and end. We must understand three things: we are about Him, we are from Him, and we are for Him. We should reflect on our ways and, perhaps, reorient our lives so that we live wisely as children of Light in the midst of this evil and perverse generation: **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” – Ephesians 5:15-17.**

The Apostle Peter tells us: **"But the end of all things is at hand; Be sober, therefore, and watch in prayer" - 1 Peter 4:7.** Peter assures his readers and listeners that they are living in the end times, and gives them advice on how to deal with all the situations they face. He encourages them to be faithful even in the midst of trial and persecution.

BE SOBER, have a clear mind, have good judgment. What Peter is saying is that we must be able to rightly judge in regard to these final events. In the days in which we live in, the mind is being bombarded from all sides, and many times we fall as prey into the hands of society that gives us so many wrong messages about the purpose of life. In these last days the devil has unleashed a war against the human mind. People have so much information, but the world is still so ignorant about what really matters. Being **SOBER** is also about having self-control in our lives. What goes into our brain affects what we do. Therefore, we have to take care of our mind and also be determined to live differently. **"... be filled with the Holy Spirit" - Ephesians 5:18.** On this day let us pray that we may live sober minded lives!

Second Day – Tuesday, January 3

COMMIT TO WATCH AND PRAYE

"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace confidently, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need" – Hebrews 4:16

On this 2nd day of our week of spiritual emphasis, Templo NUEVA VIDA needs to reflect on how important it is that we be spiritually sober so that we can "watch in prayer." The importance of prayer once again becomes evident because it goes hand in hand with living soberly. We cannot live sober lives (of good judgment and a clear mind) if we are not praying and meditating on God's Holy Word. We want to live good lives, and we want to do our best for God, but we find ourselves often time defeated by temptations and sin. But the individual who is watching in prayer is dependent on the Father, just as our Lord Jesus depended on the Father when He lived on this earth. Jesus is our example of spiritual dependence through prayer. The Bible tells us, ***"And Christ, who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear"*** – Hebrews 5:7. If we want to be ready for our Lord's return, and even before that, to live victoriously on Earth until His coming, we must have channels of open communication with God. When Christ returns He will call us by name because we have been in intimate communion with Him for so long.

The Lord Jesus also gave instructions on how we should live in the end times. ***"Watch and pray, that ye may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"*** – Matthew 26:41. No doubt Jesus was correct in saying that our flesh is weak. Many of us have been influenced by our flesh to commit sin. When we come to Christ, He forgives our sins and our spirit is renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit, but our flesh remains the same, meaning that the desires of the flesh will be the same, but now with a difference, and that is that we now have the Holy Spirit of God in our lives. He convicts us of sin and empowers us to overcome temptation. *Watch in prayer!*

Third Day – Wednesday, January 4

COMMIT TO FORGETTING YOUR FAILURES

"... But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead" – Philippians 3:13.

On this 3rd day of our week of prayer, let us reflect on the fact that there are many people trapped in their past: a single parent who feels like a failure, a divorce, a student who has dropped out, a business that didn't work out, etc. These failures remain so deeply embedded in our minds that they begin to paralyze us. But your past doesn't have to influence your mood today. God can make you a person that He uses mightily! Scripture tells us not to get entangled in our past failures; it commands us to keep going because God has great blessings in store for the new year and the rest of our lives – the Lord wants to prepare us to receive His blessings! Like the Apostle Paul, let us say, **"... *certainly forgetting what is left behind.*"**

The first thing we must do is to rise from our failure, whatever it may be. Did you fail God in a commitment? Is your marriage failing? Have you failed as a parent? Say, **WITH THE POWER OF GOD I WILL GET OUT OF THIS FAILURE! WITH GOD'S HELP I MAKE A COMMITMENT TO FORGET THIS FAILURE!** Because God too has already forgotten! We all have a past that we are not proud of. Manytimes we even feel embarrassed when we remember the sin in which we were living in. Scripture says that we once walked according to the currents of this world, but now we have been set free by Jesus. He paid the debt of our sin and has made us a new creation. **GOD LOVED ME, ANOINTED ME WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AND NOW I AM CLEANSED FROM ALL SIN AND ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS!** God has cast all our sins into the depths of the sea, so dry your tears, get up and thank God! **"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and I will never again remember their sins and their iniquities" – Hebrews 8:12.** Then we can add, **"And I will never again remember his sins and transgressions" – Hebrews 10:17.**

Would you like to start the new year with a new heart – one that is clean of sinfulness by the blood of Jesus Christ? Pray to the Lord Jesus and say, ... Yes, I do!

Fourth Day – Thursday, January 5

COMMIT TO RESTORING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS

"If it is possible, as far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men" – Romans 12:18

Over time many of our relationships deteriorate because of things we have said and done. Probably the hardest thing to do is to utter these words, "I offended you... forgive me." Ah! How many marriages would become a true paradise with these words being said wholeheartedly?

God is speaking to each of us on this day. We must begin this new year by restoring our relationships: with God, family, brothers in Christ (for some harsh word we said angrily, or for foolish actions we did).

In the case of theft, God established repentance plus restitution of the stolen. How many actions of love do we owe others? How much attention and affection have we robbed from our wife or our children, our parents, relatives and friends, etc? As we begin this new year, God invites us TO RETURN WHAT WAS STOLEN! How can I return what was stolen? We have to clear accounts with each of our relationships.

Relationship with God: How many times have you ignored or abandoned your personal prayer appointment with Him, not valued listening to his voice? WE MUST RETURN WHAT WAS STOLEN! Have you angrily complained to him, ... why my Lord? WE MUST RETURN WHAT WAS STOLEN! The Lord Jesus was hungry and we did not feed him, he was thirsty and we did not give him to drink, sick and we did not visit him, in prison and we did not come to him.

With your wife, children, parents, partners, neighbors, siblings, etc: Doing this kind of spiritual restitution is more difficult than making restitution of something material, but it is necessary! It is time to seriously understand that being a Christian is not playing "CHURCH". Can you make this commitment before the Lord? Let us pray to God that in this year, 2023, he will help us be more loving and affectionate towards others. Amen!

Fifth Day – Friday, January 6

COMMIT TO TURNING FROM YOUR SIN

This is the 5th commitment to reflect on this week, and it is much needed as we prepare to walk closer with God in this new year. Perhaps we have a hidden sin, well hidden and it has never left us. It may be a sinful tendency that causes us to live a double life. I'm a Christian, yes, but I also have a drink every now and then because I haven't been able to win in my fight against alcohol. Others are defeated again and again by pornography or other carnal sins. Often time we do things that are wrong in God's eyes, but we can hide them from others very well. No one seems to notice, there is no evidence, no suspicions. We must know that this apparent "success" we have in practicing something that satisfies our flesh without being caught, also eats away at our healthy relationship with God. This can ultimately lead to failure in our spiritual walk unless we repent and turn away from those sinful practices once and for all.

Perhaps you have already become accustomed to swear words, cigarettes, you love gossip, you practice fornication and other sins of the flesh in secret. At this moment God is inviting you to **STOP OBEYING YOUR FLESH AS IF IT WERE YOUR MASTER – STOP OBEYING YOUR EVIL DESIRES!** The hidden sin is apparently not seen, but it is there and causes harm (Joshua 7:5). Our life as a believer in the last days must be one of victory over sin. Live in victory in 2023!

The Apostle Paul instructs: ***“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” – Romans 6:5-6***

Let us pray that God will give us strength and victory over the desires of our flesh and that we would live for Christ! ***“Knowing that our old man was crucified together with Him, that the body of sin may be destroyed in us and we may no longer serve sin” – Romans 6:6***

WEEK OF SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS

DIVINE PURPOSES FOR 2023

January 2-6, 2023

"The Lord will accomplish his purpose in me; Your mercy, O Lord, is forever; Do not forsake the work of your hands" - Psalm 138:8



We will have prayer service at church every evening at 7pm!

Name _____

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