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1. **Begin 2022 with a renewed focus!**

- A. Even though we've entered a new year, our expectation and hope is in the LORD our God, and our focus is on Him as we navigate our lives through a turbulent world.
- Psalm 62:5 *...for my hope is from Him.*
 - Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will trust in the Name of the Lord our God.*
- B. What are you expecting God to do in the coming months? By aligning our life's priorities around Him and His Principles, we have true success. Here are a few thoughts...

2. **God honors the principle of "The First."**

- A. Malachi 3:8-12 clearly illustrates the importance of the Tithe, the first offering from our income. The Tithe, which was in practice *before* the giving of the Law, is not only an issue of possessions but an issue of the heart as well. Who's really first?
- The tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden belonged to God. (Genesis 2:15-17)
 - Why did God accept Abel's offering but reject Cain's offering? (Genesis 4:3-5)
 - Abraham and Jacob tithed. (Genesis 14:18-20; 28:18-22)
 - Jericho was dedicated to the LORD as the Firstfruit of the Promised Land. (Joshua 6:19)
 - The Law spoke of the Tithe in many places. (Leviticus 23:10-12)
- B. Jesus was God's "Firstfruit," (Tithe) resulting in our salvation. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23)

3. Prepare your heart to receive God's Word, instruction, and direction.

A. Deal with hindrances that prohibit results.

- Luke 8:4-15 illustrates the Seed of God's Word sown on the hard path, the soil with bedrock, the soil with weeds, and the seed sown in good, tilled soil.

B. Break up your fallow ground in Hosea 10 is ground that has been plowed but was neglected.

- Hosea 10:12 *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.*

C. Intentionally sow your actions as exemplified in the prayer of Francis of Assisi.

- "Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; ..."

4. Setting a renewed direction in life.

Take some time in thoughtful prayer and answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper or on a document on your mobile device.

A. What is one thing I believe God wants to do or create in me this year? (Write it down)

- Ask — Matthew 7:7-11 *Ask, and it will be given to you;...*
- Write down what He says — Habakkuk 2:2 *Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.*

B. My decisions not only affect my own life but the lives of others as well.

- My obedience to God unleashes His blessing in my life *and* in the lives of others. (Deuteronomy 28:1-14)
- Paul's response to the Macedonian vision resulted in the establishment of the Philippian Church. (Acts 16:9-10)

C. What should I do to begin a renewed vision for my life?

- 1 Corinthians 3:6 *I (Paul) planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.*