

## Restart – How Will This Year Be Different?

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT) No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

What one thing, if changed, would make the biggest difference in my life?

- ✓ My habits
- ✓ My relationships
- ✓ My debts
- ✓ My dreams

*“Beware of harking back to what you were once, when God wants you to be something you have never been.”* – Oswald Chambers

Luke 18:22 (NLT) When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Change the one thing that KEEPS YOU from following Jesus.

Psalm 27:4 (NIV) One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

## One Thing...Is Necessary

Luke 10:38-42 (NASB) Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word. 40 But Martha was distracted with [all] her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.” 41 But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

## Make the Decisions that Make the Difference

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### 1. Decide to make the most of every opportunity

Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV) Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Martha was consumed with what needed to be done:

Mary was consumed with the one who can get things done.

### 2. Decide to get rid of the distractions

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Fasting fixes our eyes on Jesus like nothing else.

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”* – C.S. Lewis

### 3. Decide to prioritize the presence of Jesus

Philippians 3:7-8 (NLT) I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.

The problem with the one thing is that you have to sacrifice everything else for it!

In 2018: I won’t let anything that eventually means nothing, keep me from experiencing what ultimately means everything!

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