

“Focus”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Here we are at the end of another year. If you are like me, you wonder at how fast the year went. Looking back, I see many things that occurred that could only happen by the hand of God. I also see some things that did not happen and wonder why.

Evaluating oneself is a good thing to do—just make sure to keep shame, guilt, and condemnation out of the process. Evaluating ourselves gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves of where we are going, to see how far we are in the path, to make any necessary adjustments to our course, and then to once again focus on what God has for us to do and move forward.

¹... 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. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow

weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)

“But Mrs. Sojourner,” you may say, “I do not know his specific plan for me. What should I do?” Good question. Many times I have heard The Sojourner talk about the “General Orders of the Day.” Anyone who has been in the military knows that this term means the tasks that that soldier does every day as a matter of course. God has put in the Bible what every Christian’s General Orders of the Day are. You will find encouragement or admonishment to read/meditate on the Word often^[a], to pray without ceasing^[b], to give thanks^[c], and to spread the Good News^[d], among other things. Focus on Jesus and on doing these things and do this with all your heart, and do not be surprised if in the process God reveals to you a specific plan for you to follow.

Notes:

- [a] Psalm 119
- [b] 1 Thess. 5:17
- [c] 1 Thess. 5:18
- [d] Matt. 28:19

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“You’ll Be Fine In ‘09, If...”

(Teaching Sketch)

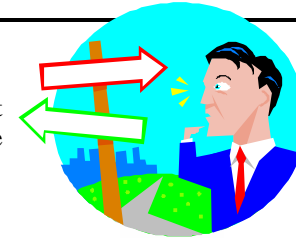
Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)



The idea may have crossed your mind that this next year may be full of trouble and disaster for you. Gloom and doom is heard on every front it seems. Financial disaster, we are told, is to be found around every corner. “The sky is falling! The sky is falling!” The words from the children’s story of “Chicken Little” seem to be shouted from every voice the world hears.

Rejoice In The Lord

The world has little in which to be joyful accept being blessed by the god of Mammon, which is no god at all, except it is man contrived. It is through the Mammon system Satan places people into bondage to him and men to each other. There is no doubt the one true God may use the economic system to bless his people just as he transferred the wealth of Egypt to his chosen people. The Hebrews benefited from Egypt’s wealth but not because they



followed Mammon, but because God robbed Mammon to bless his people who looked to him for deliverance. God’s people looked to him and he answered them.

Notes:

[a]

¹⁵Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. ¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. Hebrews 13:15-17 (NIV)

Do Not Be Anxious

Our Scripture tells us to be anxious for nothing! That’s right NOTHING! There is no reason for anxiety in trusting our God. It is always his de-

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Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

“You’ll Be Fine In ‘09, If...” (Teaching Sketch)

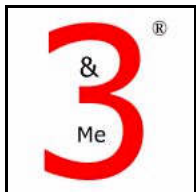
Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.
⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.



Notes:



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sire to bless his people no matter what the worldly circumstances. When we are anxious we are demonstrating our lack of trust in the Lord. We therefore are not to be anxious because a double-minded person should not think they will receive anything for the Lord.

Anything And Everything

We are to go to the throne of God boldly in the name of Jesus concerning anything and everything by prayer and petition. Remember this is to be done with thanksgiving,

“You’ll Be Fine In ‘09, If...” (Teaching Sketch)

Philippians 4:4-9 (NIV)

Continued from page two.

not grumbling and complaining. We are to demonstrate that we remember the blessings of the Lord we currently are enjoying with thankfulness and then “present our requests before God.”

Guard Your Yourself

Each person, you and I, have a responsibility to guard our own hearts as to our feelings and speech. It is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. When we speak we must speak the truths of God and not the lies of Satan. Being made in the image of God we create what we speak. Speak God’s will which it to bless his people.

The God Of Peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace. Peace is “nothing missing nothing broken” and if there is nothing missing nothing broken then we can understand the peace of God. The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. You’ll be fine in 2009 if you walk in this peace which passes all understanding and fills all understanding. Be fine in 2009!

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal fellowship & sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise, Worship, & Offerings:** (*Offerings to be placed in basket during Praise & Worship*)
Words of Prophecy or Knowledge if they have been given during “Praise & Worship.” (other times as the Spirit moves)
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

“The Sojourner Live”
Sunday, January 4th
10:00 PM (CST)

Broadcasting a message of The Kingdom Of Blessing.

