



Know the New Preston Morrison

Focus God is doing a new thing in this season, but there are things we can do that prevent us from being part of what He's doing. Knowing this, we can better prepare ourselves to be involved in what God's doing.

Fun Did you make any New Year's resolutions? If so, what are they?

Review Key Scriptures: Isaiah 43:19

Three things that get in the way of you being an active participant in the "new thing":

1. Lack of Perseverance

There will be suffering. However, we can't stop when we get tired or quit when we're overwhelmed.

2. Lack of Prayer

Prayer is not a last resort. We need to remember how essential prayer is to our everyday lives and how well it works.

3. Lack of Faith

We can increase our faith when we review His record—Scripture—daily. We can also build our faith by receiving His word for today.

Group Dynamics Idea As we begin the new year, discuss the vision for the spring with your group. How will you serve together in the community? What changes, if any, could be made to improve the group?

Discuss

1. In 1 Peter 4:1, what do we learn about suffering? In John 16:33, what is Jesus' answer to suffering?
2. What is the blessing of persevering according to James 1:12?
3. What does it look like to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)?
4. According to Daniel 10:12, why did the angel come to Daniel?
5. What does James 5:16–18 tell us about the effectiveness of prayer?
6. Over and over in Scripture, faith is built by remembering God's past faithfulness. What are some examples of people recalling God's faithfulness in the Bible?
7. Why was Paul confident in Acts 27:21–26? When is the best time to receive a word from the Lord (v. 23)?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- If we expect God to make everything easy in this season, we will resent Him when it isn't. There will be trials. We need to be prepared to face them and persevere through them.
- We need to start well, but more importantly, we need to finish well.
- Prayer is to our spiritual well-being as oxygen is to our physical well-being.
- What God has to say about what is happening in the world today is far more important than everyone else's opinion on world events.
- Prayer should be our first and best option in every situation.
- Amazing things that God desires us to do demand amazing, crazy, big, bold faith in God.
- Our faith rises when we review the resume of God's power and faithfulness daily by reading the Word.
- Praying and hearing a word from the Lord for the next year is important to gain direction, peace, and confidence in the new year.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the new thing You are doing in this season. I desire to be intimately involved and actively participate in what You are doing. Help me persevere in difficult times. Teach me how to pray continually. And Lord, I want to

increase my faith by reading Your Word daily and receive Your words for me for this season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Connecting with group members outside of your meeting creates opportunities to learn more about each other. Consider meeting at a coffee shop or after a service for a meal or dessert.