

## **"New Year: What If?"**

Acts 4:23-33

### **A. Closing the Old Year – 2024 Has Gone**

1. 2024 was a year of change in the world.
2. It may have been difficult for you.
3. Whatever it was, it is behind us now.

### **B. Two Words for the New Year: "What if!"**

1. 2025 is a blank slate.
2. Let's make it a year of adventure and faith.

### **C. What If This Is the Year of New Beginnings?**

1. Two great beginnings for the early church.
2. Acts 2: Pentecost & Acts 4: Starting again with thousands of converts.
3. The year you rededicate (1 John 1:9) & return to your first love (Rev. 2:4-5).
4. The year you stop looking back and look up to Jesus (Heb. 12:2).

### **D. What If This Is the Year Your Prayers Are Answered?**

1. "When they had prayed...the place was shaken."
2. The year your family gets right with God.
3. The year you conquer your negative attitude.
4. The year God restores your health, wealth, and relationships.

### **E. What If This Is the Year of Revival in Your Church?**

1. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit."
2. "Revival" is a misunderstood word.
3. It is not so much an external change; it starts with an internal experience.
4. Revival would make this a year of forgiveness, sharing, & reconciliation.
5. Revival would make this the year when all barriers fall.

### **F. What If This Is the Year of Evangelism?**

1. "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of Lord Jesus."
2. Here is the greatest lack in churches today.
3. How long has it been since you tried to win a soul?
4. The year of personal witnessing and soul winning.

### **G. The New Birth Makes All Things New**

1. A good time to become aware of personal sin (Rom. 3:23).
2. A good time to believe that God loves us (Rom. 5:8).
3. A good time to respond to that by receiving Christ as Saviour (Rom. 10:9-10).

### **H. Where Does This Lead?**

1. How do I please the Lord in daily living?
2. Where shall I draw the line on questionable activities?
3. Draw the line on anything that is not expedient.
4. Paul reminds us that the Christian life is a new life (1 Cor 6:11; 2 Cor 5:17).
5. All things are lawful: not saved by keeping the law.
6. All things are not expedient. a. Expedient: that which helps along. b. Not all things contribute to growth in the Christian life.

7. Will this make me love Christ more?
8. Will this enable me to serve Christ more effectively?

#### **I. Draw the Line on Anything That Enslaves You**

1. There is wonderful freedom in Christ.
2. All things are in my power...but I will not be overpowered.
3. All things permitted but... a. Money is lawful...but I will not be under its power.  
b. Recreation is lawful...but not to be our master. c. Political power is lawful...but not to rule us.
4. Let nothing become your master (1 Cor 6:12).

#### **J. Draw the Line on Anything That Does Not Edify**

1. Not all things build up.
2. Who are we to be building up?
3. Will this build up others in the family of God?
4. If not, we must leave it out of our lives.

#### **K. The Threefold Test of All We Do and Say in This New Year**

1. Does it help me along in my Christian life?
2. John Wesley: "Whatever cools my affection towards Christ is of the world."
3. Wilbur Chapman: "Anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work more difficult is wrong for me."
4. Will it allow me to remain free or will it become my master?
5. Does it build up others?

#### **L. What If? Consider Two More Words: "Why Not?"**

1. "With God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37).
2. All these good things can happen in your life.

#### **M. Let Faith Remove The Limits**

1. Claim all God wants to give you.
2. God is not only a promise giver.
3. He is a promise keeper.