

Last year at this time Pastor Trent preached a message from Psalm 27:4 that revealed five things true of a person who is resolved to seek the Lord in 2014. To what degree did you make these things a priority in 2014?

- 1) **FOCUSED DESIRE** – “One thing have I asked of the Lord”
- 2) **DECISIVE ACTION** – “that will I seek after”
- 3) **DAILY COMMUNION** – “that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life”
- 4) **WORSHIPFUL CONTEMPLATION** – “to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD”
- 5) **PRAYERFUL MEDITATION** – “to inquire in his temple.”

Discuss the following statements. How have you seen these operate in your life?

- *We move away from the Lord in small, imperceptible drifts.*
- *We move toward the Lord in big, intentional shifts.*

1) I will forget what lies behind me. (Philippians 3:13)

- **Past victories won't be enough to sustain me in the days ahead.**
 - **Past defeats won't be enough to suppress me in the days ahead.**
1. Did you take a step forward or backward this past year?
 2. What was your most difficult trial this year? Did it strengthen or weaken your faith? Why?
 3. What did you do this year that required the greatest faith?
 4. What did you spend money and time on in 2014 that you wish you had spent or given to something else?
 5. What is the one thing you did in 2014 that you would not have done if you knew what you know now?

2) I will strain forward to what lies ahead. (Philippians 3:13)

- **What lies ahead will include resistance.**
 - **What lies ahead will require persistence.**
1. What will be the greatest obstacle to your faith this year? How will you press through it?
 2. If you live 2015 exactly the way you lived 2014 will you be closer to God?
 3. What is one thing you currently believe is impossible that you will ask God to do this year?
 4. What one thing will you do this year that will matter most in ten years? In a thousand years?
 5. What one thing, if eliminated from your life, would create capacity to do more things for the Lord?

3) I will embrace spiritual disciplines, pursuit of the prize, upward progress.

- Spiritual disciplines begin when spiritual growth becomes a priority.
- Spiritual disciplines become a lifestyle through consistent practice.
- Spiritual disciplines payoff when you experience God's power.

Five Spiritual Disciplines

1. Practical Bible Application. (James 1:22-24) How is God's word like a mirror? When you see something in the mirror that needs to change what do you do? How often do you look in the mirror of God's Word? What do you do when you see something that reflects ugliness in you?

2. Private Prayer. (Matthew 6:6) Where is your place of private prayer? If you don't have a time and place to meet with God in prayer create one this week.

3. Penetrating relationships. (1John 1:7) Who do you have in your life with whom you can be transparent, vulnerable, and accountable?

4. Predetermined Giving. (Acts 20:35) Have you pre-determined to give away a percentage of your income as God provides it? In what order do you give: give, save, spend...or...spend, save, give?

5. Personal Ministry. (1Peter 4:9-10) Have you been reluctant to embrace an area of personal ministry? Why? How has embracing the responsibility of personal ministry increased your dependency on God?

Additional Scripture

- Matthew 7:24-27
- Joshua 24:15
- Psalm 1
- Psalm 27:8
- Isaiah 55:6
- Jeremiah 29:13
- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- Mark 8:36
- Luke 10:38-42
- 1Cor. 13:3

