**BIBLE - INCREASE**

***PHIL. 3:7-16 – TEXT***

**INTRODUCTION** - I think everyone has a desire for something better in their life. And it would be rare indeed for someone to say they had no desire for anything other than   
what they have already. Wanting more in our lives does not necessarily mean   
we are motivated by greed. As a matter of fact wanting more can be a good thing   
in some incidences. Spiritually speaking, what do you aspire to in life? Do you want more than you have now, or are you satisfied with what you have?

In view of the New Year let us set some goals so we can progress and increase in our service to Christ through out this New Year. Our intent and effort should be to increase this year in our closeness to Christ this should be our real purpose in life.

The key word in our lesson is to “increase” or progress onward and upward to the high calling of God.

***HOW SHOULD WE INCREASE?***

1. **INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE** –
   1. **EPH. 4:17-24** – If I am to increase in knowledge then I must hear and be taught by Jesus.
   2. **MATT. 11:28-30** – Knowledge must come from the right source. Jesus said learn from me.
   3. **COL. 1:9-11** – Paul prayed for the Colossians to be filled with knowledge. But what type of knowledge? Of his will, spiritual understanding, how to walk worthy, how to be fruitful in good works. Paul’s desire was for them to increase in the knowledge of God.
2. **INCREASE IN WISDOM** –
   1. **JAMES 3:13-18** – Wisdom is the practical application of knowledge. We show we are wise by our good conduct – by our example.
   2. **EPH. 5:1-2, 15-17** – If we increase in wisdom we will walk circumspectly, we will redeem the time.
3. **INCREASE IN ZEAL** –
   1. **TITUS 2:11-14** – Are we zealous for good works or can our zeal increase during this upcoming year.
   2. **GAL. 4:18** – Are we only zealous during our worship services? If that is so then our zeal needs to increase.
4. **INCREASE IN FAITH** – Deep belief and trust
   1. **2 PET. 1:5-11** – Peter by inspiration instructs us to increase our faith by adding other characteristics to it such as virtue, knowledge, self control etc.
   2. **2 COR. 5:7** – It is imperative that our faith increases because we walk by faith and not by sight. If we desire for our walk to be closer with the Lord day by day then it must be done by faith.
   3. **1 TIM. 6:17-19** – Where is our trust? We need to place our trust in God!!!
5. **INCREASE IN INTEREST** –
   1. **MATT. 6:24-33** – We seek after the things that interest us. We need to increase our interest in spiritual matters rather than the things of this world.
   2. **1 THESS. 4:9-10** – Increase our interest in our brethren by way of expressing brotherly love.
6. **INCREASE IN HUMILITY** –
   1. **JAMES 4:6-10** – Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.
   2. **1 PET. 3:5b-6** – If we humble ourselves God will reward us in his time.
7. **INCREASE IN GIVING** –
   1. **2 COR. 9:6-7** – Increase in our giving our money, our time, and our talent to the Lord. When is the last time you increased your contribution?
   2. **ROM. 12:9-11** – Increase our service to the Lord.
   3. **1 COR. 15:58** – We are instructed by Paul to always abound in the work of the Lord.
8. **INCREASE IN AFFECTION** –
   1. **MATT. 22:37-38** – Increase in our love for God. Will it increase this year?
   2. **PSA. 119:97** – Increase in our love for the law of God. Will my love for God’s word grow during this year?
   3. **1 JN. 5:1-3** – Increase our obedience to the commandments of God. Will my obedience to the commands of God improve during this upcoming year?

**CONCLUSION** –

What are your spiritual plans for the New Year?

Paul counted all things loss so he could gain (increase) Christ.

Are you determined to increase and truly make some spiritual progress?

We are here to help you in regard to your spiritual needs!