

Dreams & Desires

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV)

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, our hearts are filled with hopes, desires, and dreams. We long for success, happiness, and fulfillment, and we're eager to set our goals and resolutions for the year to come. It's only natural to aspire to a brighter and better future, but as we do so, let us also remember the importance of surrendering our plans to God's will.

Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." We can make all the plans we want for 2024, but it's essential to recognize that God's purpose often transcends our own. His wisdom knows what is best for us, and His timing is perfect. Therefore, expressing our hopes and desires is a beautiful act of faith, but it should be accompanied by a willingness to lay down 2024 at God's feet and let His will be done.

Surrendering to God's will doesn't mean giving up on our dreams; it means aligning our dreams with His purpose. It means trusting that even if our plans don't unfold as we envision, God's plan is greater. It's an act of humility, acknowledging that we are not in control, but God is. It's an act of faith, believing that God's plan is far more extraordinary than anything we could ever imagine.

As we welcome 2024 with open hearts, let's express our hopes, desires, and dreams, but let's also remember to pray, "Your will be done." When we do, we can face the year ahead with confidence and peace, knowing that God is in control, and His plan for us is perfect.

Take a moment to articulate your hopes, dreams, and desires for the year ahead by reflecting on the following questions:

1. How would you describe what God is awakening within your heart as you head into a new year?

2. What is the “new thing” you hope God does in your life in the year to come?

After reflecting on the above questions, write out a prayer expressing your hopes and dreams for the year to come, but declaring a willingness to lay down 2024 at His feet and let His will be done.