

Finishing Well Before You Start

Matthew 22:37-39 and Matthew 28:18-20

1. 2023 will be a success if I am [Great Commandment and Great Commission driven](#).

📖 Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV) “Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

📖 Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2. 2023 will be a success if I am able to have a proper [understanding of what is meaningful and meaningless](#).

📖 Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (NIV) “The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teachers. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

📖 Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV) “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

3. 2023 will be a success if I am [intentional](#).

📖 Ephesians 6:12 (NIV) “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”



4. 2023 will be a success if I am [effective](#).

📖 Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) “Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

5. 2023 will be a success if I am [ready](#).

📖 Matthew 5:13-16 (NIV) “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your father in heaven.”

📖 I Timothy 4:8 (NIV) “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

Mission

- **Great Commandment:** Love God and Love Others. Matthew 22:37-39 (NIV)
 - **Great Commission:** As You Go, Make Disciples. Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)
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Application

- 1. Be Ready and Effective.** Stay Alert. Grow in your knowledge of the Lord. Go on the attack!
 *Ephesians 6:10 (NIV) "Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."*
- 2. Pursue Godliness.** For those of us working on getting in better shape over the new year, this is a good reminder!
 *1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) "For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."*
- 3. Be Salty.** Stay in the Word and stay in Prayer. Who are the people in your life you can build relationship bridges with to throw gospel seed?
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- 4. Pray Continually.** Pray for those who you could reach with the gospel. Folks in your neighborhood? Folks at work? Folks at school?
 *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*
- 5. Be a Doer.** Break out of your comfort zone. Pursue a life as a balanced and growing Obedient Christian in Action!
 *James 1:22 (NIV) "Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourself. Do what it says."*
- 6. Pass the Baton to our Children, our Communities, our World.** Who are you discipling? Who are you investing in to grow in spiritual maturity? Who is discipling you? How are you reaching your own Jerusalem, Judea, and ends of the earth?
 *Proverbs 22:6 (NIV) "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."*
 *Acts 1:8 (NIV) "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
- 7. Be Bold.** Preach the gospel at all times – and **USE** words!
 *Ephesians 6:19-20 (NIV) "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should."*