

# **Personal Victory for the New Year**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Anniversaries are a bit of a hallucination.

B. Yesterday is beyond recall, yet we still need the dust of our sin cleaned from us.

## II. How can we face the new year with Christian victory?

A. We are to watch-be alert.

1. So that we do not loath.

2. So that we are aware of the enemy abroad-the Devil.

a. He is not dead.

b. We are not going to be able to take it easy.

c. We are like track walkers-we need to keep our eyes open for anything ahead of us that might cause us to stumble.

B. Preachers have a tendency to overlook the good, being “doctors” who fix the bad.

1. We would not be here if it were not for God’s goodness.

2. If we are properly thankful for the answers to prayer, we will never have a lack of answers to prayer to be thankful for.

B. Steadfastness.

1. Appears in sinners and saints.

2. The example of Samuel who stood steadfastly in the faith.

3. An artist begins with the primary colors and uses them all his life even as he grows. So too the Christian stays by the basics as he grows.

a. Faith, love, hope, confidence, the gospel-these are all the primary colors of the Christian life that nothing can invalidate. (John 1:1, 1 Corinthians 15)

b. Many things will change, but the Word of God will stay the same.

C. Strength.

1. The courage of men.
2. Strength in the love of God. (1 Corinthians 13)
  - a. God has never commanded the impossible.
  - b. If He has commanded something, He has also provided the means.
3. Keys to strength.
  - a. The filling of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. The indwelling of the Lord.
  - c. Prayer and the sacred Scriptures.

D. Love.

1. The queen of the virtues.
2. One of the rarest things in the church.
3. Sometimes requires the use of a scalpel-like the love of a doctor.
4. Someone once said that he never added another ounce of unnecessary suffering to that which is already brought about by mankind.

**Application questions.**

1. What should a proper response to the new year be? How are we to view the past? The present?

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2. Which of the four characteristics stands out the most to you in list of qualities to pursue? Explain.

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3. Which areas are your greatest deficiencies? Which are your greatest deficiencies? What steps can you take to begin cultivating at least one of these characteristics in your life?

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