

Give A Year: Heart Issues

So you're thinking of giving a year, and praying about a lifetime. Still, there's that nagging question in you ... am I doing this for the right reasons? Do I have a sound and righteous perspective for what this year will look like? Am I going in order to serve the nation and not to actualize a goal in my own life?

Remember John 12:24

“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

We too are called to die to our selves and our expectations for our lives. Instead, we are called to embrace God's direction for our lives and with it, the successes & failures, desolations & connections that might exist within it. Going into a give-a-year with your own expectations of what will happen is a surefire way to be disappointed quickly. But going in to a year with a heart bowed in anticipation for God's plans will result in peace through turmoil and a righteous joy in whatever victories you may experience!

Three expectations to gain an honest vision in, and to die to daily are;

1. **The expectation of the experiences you will have.** It will be hard and your experiences will not always be easy. If you are going because you think it will be full of glorious encounters you will be very disappointed. But if you go with expectations that it will be hard and stretching and uncomfortable and sacrificial, then when you have great experiences you will say “wow, how blessed I am that I get to experience this” versus be bitter when your experience doesn't match what you had hoped.
2. **You need to die to your expectation of the missionaries you will serve**—you need to go with a heart to serve the missionary and not with an expectation of what you will get from the missionary. Then when you do receive something from the missionary you will be grateful for what was provided and not disappointed you didn't get more from them.
3. **You need to die to your expectation of the fruit you will bear**—you need to go with a sense that you will serve but not that you will be lauded as God's gift the nation you are serving. As you serve and you see the miracles that God does actually use you in, then you will be excited and thankful that God used you in even one small way instead of disappointed that you didn't see the masses impacted.

If you die to these things, then you will be dying to self. You will experience the transformation that the Lord wants to bring in your life, and you will be grateful and thankful versus frustrated and disappointed. It starts with what expectations you bring to the year!

Take time to pray right now. Lord, what are my expectations? Will you help me to die to them today? Create in me a new heart and a renewed mind that I may serve you fully.