



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

The Four Keys

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Keys are used to open things or start something. New year creates new opportunities for every Christian to fulfil God's plan. Moreover, time never stops, so let's fix our mind in achieving our goals, improving ourselves, and choosing wise actions (Prov. 17:24). In order to achieve our full potential, there are four important keys we must know and understand.

- 1. Accept responsibility for our life.** Responsible means to have an obligation, to take control, to take care of someone or something. We are responsible as a parent, a leader, a worker, a businessman, etc., and these are possible channels we can lead people to God. Our responsibilities also continue beyond the different circumstances in life either within or beyond our control; nevertheless, all our plans depend on God's permission (Jam. 4:15). Moreover, as Christians we must live according to the commandments while sharing the word of God. Likewise, we must avoid these types of attitudes when pursuing God's plan:
 - 1.1. Accuser. (Num. 14:1-25)
 - 1.2. Excuser. (Prov. 22:13)
 - 1.3. Choosers. (Lk. 12:16-21)
- 2. Believe we can change.** A Christian life is a work in progress and a firm decision to change. We must stop saying, "I can't" and start saying, "I can". A Christian cannot master himself without the help of Jesus Christ (Phil. 4:19). He meditates on God's promise of changing their hearts (Ez. 36:26) and accepting changes in times and seasons (Eccl. 3:1); God makes things new (Is. 43:19) and every good and perfect gift is from Him (Jam. 1:17). Any changes coming to our life brought about by being a disciple of God are His plan (Jer. 29:11) for we are part of the church sanctified by His son, Jesus Christ (1

Cor. 6:11). If we allow our Lord to change us, He will set a course for us and for our happiness.

- 3. Clarify what we want in life.** We must determine the important things in our life and the freedom to choose the right things. This makes us children of God (Gen. 1:26). The top 3 important relationships in life:

3.1. Relationship with God

3.2. Relationship with Family

3.3. Relationship with Church and with Christian communities.

- 4. Don't wait to begin.** We must do it now and never procrastinate for the Lord. We might miss an opportunity should we set our conditions of what a perfectly timed action means. "If we wait for perfect conditions, we will never get anything done" (Eccl. 11:4).

Conclusion:

A new year is ahead of us, and we wipe our slate clean. It is the time to get on our journey with God and pursue the plans set for us. When we acknowledge that we are God's child, we know our responsibility, our resilience in every failure, our Christian values, and the urgency of sharing the Gospel to the world.

Reflection:

1. What are your responsibilities in life? Are they coherent with God's plan?
2. How do you deal with procrastination in serving the Lord?
3. What are the important things you spend time with? Does it to give you long lasting joy?

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