



RCC Phoenix – 1.3.21 – Motive Matters

A quick Google search of the “most common new year’s resolutions 2020” shows these results:

1. _____ more.
2. Lose _____.
3. Get _____.
4. _____ a new skill or hobby.
5. Live _____ to the _____.
6. _____ more money / _____ less money.
7. Quit _____.
8. _____ more _____ with family and friends.

There’s an old saying, “If the “ _____ ” is high, the _____ is low.”

1. _____ with Christ

John 15:4-5 NLT

Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Remaining with the Lord first requires us _____ close to Him and then _____ close to Him in every life scenario.

Why should we Abide with Christ?

John 15:7-8 NLT

But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

When I abide with Christ, my “why” changes from “I want to be seen by others” to “I want to bring glory to God.”

2. _____ & _____

Fasting is an outward physical act of an inward spiritual principle.

When we fast, we are telling the Lord with our actions that He is more important than anything to us, including what we are giving up.

Matthew 6:16-18 NLT

“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:5-8 NLT

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Why Fast & Pray?

John 3:30 NLT

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

When we fast and pray, our “why” changes from _____ motives to _____ motives.

When we get closer to God, our _____ change.

When our appetites change, our _____ change.

When our desires change, our _____ change.

3. _____ with the Lord

Proverbs 16:1-3 NLT

We can make our own plans, but the LORD gives the right answer.

People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.

Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.

Committing our plans to the Lord means we are submitting our lives to His _____ and, when we do that, our plans will be to fulfill what the Lord _____.

Psalms 37:3-6 NLT

Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires.

Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.

He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun.

Why Plan with the Lord?

1 Corinthians 3:10-15 NLT

Because of God's grace to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

When we make plans with the Lord, our “why” changes from _____ rule keeping, to _____, loving obedience.