

Choose to Get Closer to Jesus in 2016!

Can you believe 2016 is here already? It seems as though the Lord has sped up time. Days turn into weeks, weeks turn into months, and the year flies by faster than ever before. Each and every passing day brings us closer to the Rapture of the Church. It's true. The Rapture is soon to come! It could happen at any moment and we must be ready or be left behind. The Bible says, "This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Here, the Apostle Paul explained that our salvation becomes closer and closer with each passing moment. It is closer now than it was when you first began reading this study. Therefore, we must hyper-focus on getting ready to meet the Lord when He calls us home. Here are some things that we should choose to do in 2016: recognize the Rapture's imminence, have a more effective prayer life, read and study the Word, and live holy and wholly for God.

Recognize the Rapture's Imminence

The rapture could take place at any moment. The Bible does not indicate precisely when the Rapture will happen, but we are living in the end times. We know that the rapture will occur prior to Christ's second coming and prior to the end of the age. In Matthew 24, Jesus gave his disciples some examples of things that would occur when his second coming and the end of the age is imminent. The signs include: false doctrines and cults that will deceive millions (Islam is one such cult), famine, earthquakes all over the world, wars, persecution of Christians, etc. Jesus said that when we see these things occurring, we will know His return "is very near, right at the door" (Matthew 24:33). 2016 could be the year we go Home! To learn more about the Rapture, see the Bible Study "[What is the Rapture?](#)" on the [Bible Studies](#) page.

More Effective Prayer Life

A robust prayer life is of critical importance in cultivating a close walk with Jesus. It is our primary means of communication with Him. Jesus wants to hear from us. He wants to hear our worship and praise. He wants us to ask Him what His will is for us. He wants us to tell Him our troubles and seek Him for guidance. He wants us to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness. Most of all, He wants us to have power to overcome sin. Jesus said, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into

temptation” (Matthew 26:41). Prayer and closeness with God will release power and anointing into our lives. Jesus himself was a prayer warrior. He often went off by himself to commune with the Father. If prayer was of utmost importance to Jesus Christ, and he was the Son of God, how much more important is prayer for us? Let’s make prayer a priority in 2016. To learn more about how to pray, see the Bible Study “[Teach me to Pray: The Lord’s Prayer Applied](#)” and “[Sermon on the Mount, Part 9: Ask, Seek, Knock - God's Framework for Prayer](#)” on the [Bible Studies](#) page.

Read and Study the Word

Study your Bible in 2016! The Word of God will help you grow in your spiritual walk and will lead you along the path God has set before you. The Bible says, “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.” Psalms 119:105. NLT. Read your Bible daily in 2016 to learn God’s standard of holiness, to gain spiritual strength, and to live a life that is victorious over Satan and his temptations. When Satan tried to tempt Jesus, Jesus quoted scriptures from Deuteronomy to resist Satan. Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus told Satan, "It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:4. It is the power of God's word that will help you to make the right choices and choose to glorify Jesus in everything you do and say in 2016.

Visit the [Daily Bible Reading Schedule](#) page and select a plan to guide you as you delve into God's word.

Live Holy and Wholly for God

God requires holy living. Because we have been made new in Christ, and because we have the Holy Spirit living within us, we have the tools we need to be a “living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God” as the Bible says we should (Romans 12:1). By studying the Word and abounding in prayer, our minds will become Christ-centered rather than focused on the world, wealth, society and pop-culture. It is when we overcome the temptation to sin and instead do what is right in the eyes of God, that we are holy and pleasing to Him. Take some time to think about your life and what attitudes, actions, and habits you need to put aside in order to become holy because God your father is holy. To learn more about holy living, see the Bible Studies “[God Requires Holy Living,](#)” “[Cultivate the Fruits of the](#)

[Spirit](#),” [“A Living Sacrifice: A Guided Self-Study](#),” [“What’s in a Name?”](#), and parts 1 through 9 of the [Sermon on the Mount Series](#) on the [Bible Studies](#) page.

Conclusion

Let’s choose to get closer to Jesus in 2016. Choose Jesus today!

God bless.