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## A Simple Beginning

1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV) “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

1. What if tomorrow - when the new year starts - you took action to not only see your physical body become healthy but your character become more like Christ - changed from the inside out by God’s work in you?

Colossians 2:6 (ESV) says, “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him [...]”

2. What does that look like - to walk in Jesus in the same way that we received him?
  - a. Answer #1: Faith - we started with faith
  - b. Answer #2: Humility - we began with humility

What are you going to do to take an **action step** pro-actively towards Jesus?

3. **Action step** might be: **Baptism: A New Life**
  - a. Lies people believe that keep them from being baptized
    - i. I don’t know enough
    - ii. I have a sin that I haven’t conquered yet
    - iii. I can be a Christian and not get baptized
  - b. Who is to be baptized?
    - i. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
    - ii. Do you believe Jesus died on the cross, paid the price for your sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day?
    - iii. Is Jesus your Savior and Lord... your authority that you are following?
  - c. Why should I get baptized?
    - i. Jesus commanded it. We get baptized **to obey** God’s Word.

Matthew 28:19 (NLT) “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- ii. Baptism **symbolizes** to others what God is doing in you.

Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT) “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.”

- iii. Baptism **identifies** us with a new life.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT) “For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.”

- iv. Jesus set an **example** for baptism.

4. **Action step: A New Way of Thinking**

Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV) “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

- a. **Action #1:** Pray
  - i. Open Doors: World Watch List 52 weeks of prayer
- b. **Action #2:** Read the Bible in a Year
  - i. Reading plans

## 5. Action step: A New Way of Living

Colossians 3:5-17 (NIV) “5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

12 Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

### For Small Group Discussion

**Opening Question:** What is the most unique New Year’s Resolution you have ever heard?

**Main Point:** The simple message of Christmas is “God With Us”. As we move into the New Year, let us focus on “God With Us” in every season.

**Main Scripture:** Colossians 3:1-17

#### Head Questions

- What part of Colossians 3 stood out to you the most?
- What is most likely to distract you this year? What do you hope will be different this year?

#### Heart Questions

- What grievances are the hardest for you to forgive?
- Where/when in your life have you felt stuck?

#### Hands Questions

- What are some obstacles that you’d like to remove so that the peace of Christ can rule in your heart this year?
- What practical steps can you take to help make that happen?

**Additional Scripture:** Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:13-15, Romans 6:1-8

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