

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

# What Does God Want From You In This New Year?

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • JANUARY 4, 2026  
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Chair Page Number is 153  
Pastor Joe's email: [Joe@southreno.com](mailto:Joe@southreno.com)

**Ephesians 5:15–17, TLB** - So be careful how you act; these are difficult days. <sup>16</sup> Don't be fools; be wise: make the most of every opportunity you have for doing good. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to find out and do whatever the Lord wants you to.

**Ephesians 5:15–17, NLT** - <sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

## What does God want from You in 2026?

### 1. Live Wisely and Walk Carefully.

**Ephesians 5:15, NASB95** - <sup>15</sup> Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise....

*Paul reminds us that wisdom does not happen by accident.  
Walking wisely requires attention and intention.*

### 2. Leverage Your Time Because Time is a Gift – Not a Guarantee.

**Ephesians 5:16, NASB95** - <sup>16</sup> making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

A life once spent is irrevocable. It will remain to be contemplated through eternity...the same may be said of each day. When it is once past, it is gone forever. - Missionary Adoniram Judson

One of the great uses of Twitter and Facebook will be to prove at the Last Day that prayerlessness was not for lack of time.

- Dr. John Piper

How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness, how the time has flewn. How did it get so late so soon? - Dr. Seuss

### 3. Long to do God's Will.

**Ephesians 5:17, NLT** - <sup>17</sup> Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

## How do we accomplish this?

**STUDY VERSE SECTION - Ephesians 5:18, NASB95** - <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk [the Greek word means "to be excited by something"] with wine [a fermented drink], for that is dissipation [the Greek word means "something that does not save;" we get our English Word "rot" from this word], but be filled [this Greek word means "to be completely seized by something via surrender"] with the Spirit....

A **Drunk** is excited by drink  
....is influenced by drink  
...loses control by surrender  
....has temporary happiness  
...does stupid embarrassing things

A **Believer** is excited by Christ  
....is influenced by the Holy Spirit  
...gains control via surrender  
...has lasting happiness  
Spirit-filled believers glorify God.

*Will you be completely seized by God's Holy Spirit via surrender this year?*