



MAXIMIZING  
PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR  
OPPORTUNITIES

“For the Lord has poured out on you a spirit of deep sleep. He has closed the eyes of your prophets and visionaries. All the future events in this vision are like a sealed book to them. When you give it to those who can read, they will say, “We can’t read it because it is sealed.” When you give it to those who cannot read, they will say, “We don’t know how to read.”” Isaiah 29:10-12

The new year is just around the corner and this is the period where those who are strategic have already started planning for the coming year. Anyone intending to start strong in January cannot start planning then because it will take time to strategize, review and start executing the strategy. Therefore, wisdom suggests that the time to start planning for the coming year is now. How then do we plan effectively for a future that is as yet unknown to us?

We know that nothing takes the Lord by surprise, and He already has a plan for us in the coming year. However, there’s a possibility that we will miss or misunderstand His plan if we cannot see and accurately interpret what He is doing.

This series we are going into a strategic planning session with the Holy Spirit trusting that He will use it as a platform to reveal His plans to us and position us to be effective and productive throughout the coming year as we maximise all the opportunities He’s already made available to us.

## Day 1

### Avoid Sleepwalking

“For the Lord has poured out on you a spirit of deep sleep. He has closed the eyes of your prophets and visionaries.” Isaiah 29:10

It's possible to “sleep walk” through life going from one day to the next without seeing any tangible difference from one year to the next. Our physical eyes may be open, but our minds may be asleep to what is going on around us and more importantly, what God is doing. This type of sleep is typically due to not providing our spirit with the nutrition it requires. The same way the body becomes lethargic, our spirits can also become lethargic causing us to slumber and even fall into deep sleep.

“When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep... “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’” Matthew 25:5, 7-8

All the virgins fell asleep which means that there will be times we will experience drowsiness spiritually. But the critical thing is being able to wake up whenever we do slumber or sleep. What made the 5 virgins foolish wasn't that they fell asleep, but that they lacked the extra oil to keep their lamps on. The oil represents the presence of the Holy Spirit thus, it means that even though the Holy Spirit is present in us as believers, it's possible to disconnect from Him and fall asleep spiritually if we don't actively nurture the relationship. What are the things we've put in place to help us stay awake? Do we have people around us who will notice we're not as alert as we used to be? Are we listening to messages that will keep our spirits awake and connected to the things of God? It's when we are awake that we can pick up the signals God is sending to us about what to do regarding the coming year.

Imagine giving instructions to someone who's sleepy or completely asleep. The tendency will be for the person to either not hear you at all, or misinterpret what you're saying. This is what happens when we're spiritually asleep: the Holy Spirit is speaking but we can't hear Him. And because we can't hear Him, we run in our own direction, assuming that's what we're supposed to do. Contrast this with being awake and hearing exactly what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. This is why one of the critical things we need to thrive in the coming year is a spirit that's awake and alert.

**Prayer:** Lord wake me up from every form of slumber. Help my spirit to be awake and alert throughout the coming year and beyond.

## Day 2

### Lazer Sharp Vision

“...He has closed the eyes of your prophets and visionaries.” Isaiah 29:10

The Lord has already created the opportunities for this month to the end of 2025 and beyond. But we need to be able to see them first so we can appropriate them and gain the desired advantage. Sight is a critical function required for following directions. Imagine being in a dark room full of gold items, but there are also cheap items in the same room covered with glitter so they look shiny from afar. It would be difficult to differentiate the two without the ability to see the items clearly. Likewise the coming year had opportunities that truly invaluable and others that are shiny objects, but lacking substance.

“I counsel you to... anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.” Revelation 3:18

Jesus knows the power of spiritual sight which is why He counsels us to get eye salve from Him so we can see. This tells us that it's possible for our natural eyes to be open, but be spiritually blind. This is a dangerous place to be because it gives us the illusion that we can see, but in reality we may be mistaking tinsel for gold. It also means that we may miss the real opportunities God has for us because they don't necessarily look like what we're expecting.

“Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, “Can you see anything now?” The man looked around. “Yes,” he said, “I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.” Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Jesus sent him away, saying, “Don't go back into the village on your way home.”” Mark 8:23-26

Jesus led the blind man out of the village called Bethsaida, suggesting there was something about the village that would be hindered the man's healing process. In Matthew 11:23 we see that Bethsaida was one of the villages Jesus rebuked for unbelief. Which means not every environment will be conducive to what God wants to do in/with/for us in the coming year and our eyes must be able to discern this.

**Prayer:** Take me out of every situation, relationship, mindset that is negatively affecting what and how I see in 2025

At first the man's sight was fuzzy, he couldn't really see clearly and if Jesus had left him at that point technically he'd no longer be blind, but he still wasn't in a position to see clearly. He couldn't distinguish between people, who they were and what they carried for or against him. It took Jesus spitting on the man's eyes for them to be completely open.

**Prayer:** Remove every blockage to my seeing well. Do whatever You need to do to move me forward in the coming year

Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Perhaps we've lost things this year and are looking for restoration, only Jesus can do this completely.

**Prayer:** Open my eyes completely to the knowledge of Your will, to what has been written concerning me in the scrolls of 2025, to see the opportunities tailor made for me, to see the relationships I need to cultivate and those I need to exit. Show me the path for restoration for the things lost this year.

## Day 3

### Become the Solution

“All the future events in this vision are like a sealed book to them. When you give it to those who can read, they will say, “We can’t read it because it is sealed.”” Isaiah 29:11

“Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.” Isaiah 46:9-10

Even though the future already exists in the spiritual realm, not everyone can see it because it is sealed to most. This is where we have an advantage as believers through the Holy Spirit who not only knows the future, but also has the capacity be willingness to reveal it to us.

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.” John 16:13

If we want to know what the coming year holds, the answer is in the Holy Ghost. He is the Spirit of truth and has the unique ability to guide us into the future that God designed for us. He’s the one who guides us along the best pathway, showing us the difference between good and God. He’s also the one who equips us to mature into the version of us required to function effectively in all God has for us. It’s in fellowship with Him that we can read the year accurately and position for maximum impact.

“Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.” Psalms 40:7

Jesus knew exactly what He was to do per time, which means we also have access to that level of exposure to the future. The scrolls of 2025 have already been written, but if the book is closed we can’t read it and see the instructions we are to follow. The same way every product has a manual to guide its effectiveness, every opportunity from God also has instructions to go with them. It’s in reading the scrolls that we see the instructions and know what to do. This why a key prayer is that the books of the future be unlocked to us.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, unlock the scrolls of 2025 for my life, family, business, and all that concerns me. Help me see where I should be and what I should be doing per time so my life aligns with what has been written about me to do Your will.

## Day 4

### Becoming the Solution

“When you give it to those who cannot read, they will say, “We don’t know how to read.””  
Isaiah 29:12

We have asked the Lord to wake us and open the books of the coming year to us and we are confident He will do so as it’s His desire that we know the future. However, it’s one thing to have a book wide open before us, but another to understand what it says. It’s yet another to know what to do with the understanding received.

The coming year will present unique challenges and opportunities, and we require both understanding and knowledge to maximize our impact in both.

“From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.” 1 Chronicles 12:32

What distinguished the Issachirites was their ability to both understand the signs and know the best course to take. Their ability to do so placed them in prime position to take leadership positions in Israel. Likewise people who both know what the future holds and know what to do about it will be highly sought after because there will be many questions to be answered and many problems to solve.

“So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?””  
Genesis 41:37-38

Joseph’s ability to understand pharaoh’s dream and ability to formulate a strategy to address the issues and opportunities the dream revealed is what elevated him in Egypt. When we receive supernatural answers to the problems of organizations, societies and nations, we become highly sought after for our problem-solving capacity.

**Prayer:** Open up my understanding, help me interpret the scrolls of the new year accurately. Give me insight into the solutions for the problems in the fields You have called me to operate in. Make me a significant problem solver in the coming year.

## Day 5

### Smoke and Mirrors

“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.” Luke 22:31

The Lord opens doors to opportunities and so does the enemy. The question is how do we ensure we can distinguish between the two? No one goes into a new season planning to run into error, but it’s important to recognise the same way God has a plan, so does the enemy. The plans of the enemy will not immediately appear to be wrong for us. If anything, they may actually come across as very attractive and logical because the enemy understands how to appeal to our senses and natural desires.

“so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.”  
2 Corinthians 2:11

“For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.” 1 John 2:16

If we reflect on our lives, majority of the mistakes we made in business, career, relationships, etc. didn’t necessarily look like errors from the start. It’s typically at the point of consequence that we realize the error. Most decisions that led to the error probably appeared quite appealing initially, thus we went forward with the decision. Satan is an ancient spirit, he’s observed multiple generations of people so he understands how to present his opportunity in a manner that will appeal to the mindset of a person. As appealing as they may appear, his ultimate agenda remains to steal, kill and destroy.

“There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.” Proverbs 14:12

“Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:” Psalm 144:11

As we plan for the coming year’s opportunities we require discernment to distinguish between God’s agenda and that of the enemy. The same way God works through people, so does the enemy, thus we require the Lord to help us identify counsel that comes from Him and that of the enemy. We must strategically pray in advance for deliverance from wrong counsel- things that seem to make sense but have been specifically designed by the enemy to be distractions in the coming year.

**Prayer:** Lord grant me heightened perception and discernment in the coming year. Help me identify the counsel that comes from You and that which the enemy has orchestrated. Let my desires align with Yours so only Your counsel is fulfilled in my life.



## Day 6

### Recognise What You Carry

“Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied.”  
Exodus 4:2

Whatever the Lord is going to use to multiply us in the coming year is already in us, but we must identify it so we can maximise it. When it was time for Moses to take up his role, he was understandably full of questions about how to go about it, convinced he lacked the necessary skills and equipment. God asked him a simple question which He’s also asking us today, “What is that in your hand?”

“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.” Psalms 139:14

“I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:6

The same shepherd’s staff Moses had worked with daily and had probably not placed any value in was the same tool the Lord used as an instrument to demonstrate His miracle working power both in Egypt and in the desert. No one comes into the world empty; we all have innate abilities gifted to us by the Lord. Our responsibility is to identify, hone and maximise their impact in partnership with the Lord.

““All right,” Saul said. “Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here.” One of the servants said to Saul, “One of Jesse’s sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him.” So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, “Send me your son David, the shepherd.”” 1 Samuel 16:17-19

As we start utilising our gifts people around us begin to recognise our giftings. When the Lord created an opportunity for David to come into the king’s court, unknown to David someone in Saul’s court recommended him based on his demonstrated skill. Even though David had the capacity to play the harp if he never disciplined himself to improve his skill, he may have missed the opportunity which altered the trajectory of his destiny.

**Prayer:** Lord show me the unique gifting and capacity You have already placed in me that I may not be paying attention to. Help me to hone these abilities so I am well positioned to maximise every opportunity You open to me. Let voices speak on my behalf to significant kings.

## Day 7

### Strategic Relationships

“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” Proverbs 27:17

For us to maximise all the opportunities the Lord has in mind for us, there are strategic relationships we must ask Him to orchestrate and help us form and nurture in the coming year, specifically with people who will act as agents of strategic information. These are the people who have critical insight concerning the opportunity(ies) the Lord has prepared for us.

“Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.” Genesis 41:14

Pharaoh called sent for Joseph on the recommendation of his chief cup-bearer and that meeting propelled Joseph to heights he'd never imagined. Had Joseph mismanaged this relationship while they were both in prison, that recommendation may not have arisen. Joseph's attitude is a lesson for us in relationship management. The Bible tells us that Joseph showed care for other inmates which is why he observed the baker and butler were troubled and interpreted their dreams.

“Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” Proverbs 16:24

“Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” Hebrews 13:2

“When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. “Why do you look so worried today?” he asked them.” Genesis 40:6-7

Someone once said you may forget what a person said, but you never forget how a person made you feel. Joseph was evidently a person who paid attention to others and fostered a harmonious environment. He didn't know it at the time, but one of the people he showed kindness to would later be pivotal to God's uplifting. It's fair to believe that had Joseph treated the butler callously he may not necessarily have recommended him to pharaoh even though he had the skill required for dream interpretation. Let it not be that our character will stand in the way of what God wants to do in our lives in the coming year.

**Prayer:** Lord connect me to the people with strategic information that will lead to enlargement for me in the coming year. Help me maintain a genuinely hospitable character to all so I don't inadvertently impact Your plans for me.

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