



Scripture

Leviticus 27:30

Joel 1:14

Deuteronomy 14:23

Mark 1:35

Matthew 6:33; 23:23; 28:18–19

Acts 20:7

Hebrews 10:19–25

START IT UP

In the past, what kinds of things have you decided to put first as a new year began? Did you succeed? Why or why not?

Talk It Up

1. Why is it that we tend to put providing what we need for ourselves at the top of our lists instead?
2. In Mark 1:35, we see how Jesus prayed. Where and when do you (or could you) find your solitary place to meet with God each day?
3. The author of Hebrews wrote, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all

the more as you see the Day approaching.” Jesus wants His followers to get together regularly to worship. This passage provides a partial reason—what is it?

4. Look at Matthew 6:20–21. Here, tithing and giving (or lack of them) are seen to function as indicators of our heartfelt priorities. Why do you think our uses of money serve so accurately in this way?
5. Have you ever fasted and prayed for a specific purpose, either alone or corporately? What does willingness to fast mean?

THINK IT UP

This isn't about doing things a certain way to get God to love you. He already loves you, and nothing you do or don't do will make Him love you more than He already does! If you want to grow from spiritually apathetic or inconsistent to fired up, though, setting certain priorities will definitely help you reach that goal.

Pray It Up

The first step of obedience available to a new Christian is baptism. If you've been baptized, what is the next step of obedience God is asking of you? Seek Him this week and ask Him to show you—then follow His instructions!

STEP IT UP

The excitement of a new calendar year can give us momentum in setting new goals and working toward them. But it's never too late to start fresh! Regardless of when you're reading this, regardless of how many times this year or month or week or day you've already messed up, God makes all things new. What can you do right now to move closer to Him?