

A YEAR-END REFLECTION

(James 4:13-15)

Do you wish to have a 'Happy New Year' this 2019? If you do, you need to make a spiritual inventory of your life this past year by asking these personal and probing questions. These questions will serve as guiding principles to gauge your spiritual progress and growth in your Christian life (Psalm 26:2; 139:23-24; Lam.3:40; 2 Cor.13:5-6). Gleaning from the book of James, here are three year-end reflection questions.

1. **How serious are you in dealing with the _____ in your heart?**
The sin of pride (1 Jn.2:15; James.4:6) is the *attitude of self-sufficiency* which says, 'I can live my life apart from God' (James 4:13; Ps.14:1; Deut.30:20; Ps.16:1-2; Acts 17:28; Heb. 12:15). Pride is the *attitude of sinful arrogance* which says 'I can make life choices and plans with the full assurance of success' (James 4:13,6; Prov.16:3,9; 21:30; Ps.20:4).
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2. **How wise are you in the way you view _____?**
Wisdom calls for us to have the biblical understanding of life. The book of James portrays the nature of our life on earth in two ways: (a) Life on earth is uncertain (James 4:14; Prov.27:1; Matt.24:38-39; Lk.12:16-21) and (b) Life on earth is brief and temporary (James 4:14; Job 7:6-9; Ps.39:5; 102:11; 90:10).
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3. **How submissive are you to the _____?**
We are submissive to God's will (James 4:15; Acts 18:21; 1 Cor.4:19; 16:7) when (a) we pursue to live life for *God's pleasure* (Matt.3:17; Jn.5:30; 8:28-29; 2 Cor.5:9) and when (b) we plan in light of *God's providence* (Job 12:9-10; Isa.14:24,27; Prov.19:21; Rom.8:28).
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Concluding Reflection:

"Remember my affliction and roaming, the wormwood and the gall. My soul still remembers and sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning, Great is Your faithfulness." (Lam. 3:19-23)