

FRESH START Preparing for the New Year

“The Lord says, ‘Forget about what has happened before. Do not think about the past. [Instead] look at the new thing I am going to do.’”
Isaiah 43:18-19 (New Century)

HOW TO S.T.A.R.T. OVER IN 2009

STOP making excuses for my failures.

“A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.”
Proverbs 28:13 (Living Bible)

Common Causes of Failure

WE DON'T plan ahead.

“A sensible man watches for problems and prepares to meet them. The fool never looks ahead and suffers the consequences.”
Proverbs 27:12 (Living Bible)

WE DON'T listen to others.

“Plans fail without good advice, but they succeed with the advice of many others.”
Proverbs 15:22 (New Century)

“Pride always leads to destruction.”
Proverbs 16:18

WE give up too soon.

“If you give up when trouble comes, it shows that you are weak.”
Proverbs 24:10 (New Century)

TAKE stock of my life.

“You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted? I hope not!”
Galatians 3:4 (Inter. Children's Bible)

Ask yourself three questions:

- What have I learned?
- What are my assets?
- Who can help me?

ACT in faith.

“According to your faith will it be done to you.”
Matthew 9:29 (NIV)

“We should make plans – counting on God to direct us.”
Proverbs 16:9 (Living Bible)

“The fear of man is a snare...”
Proverbs 29:25

“Being afraid of people can get you into trouble...”
Proverbs 29:25 (New Century)

REFOCUS my thoughts.

“Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.”
Proverbs 4:23 (Good News)

“Happy are those who... are always meditating on God's Word... They are like trees along a river... that do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.”
Psalm 1:1-3 (Good News)

TRUST God to help me succeed.

“You will not succeed by your own strength or power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord.”
Zechariah 4:6 (New Century)

“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!”
2 Corinthians 5:17 (Living Bible)