

A Word for 2023, STEP

Matthew 2:1-12

Jan. 8, 2023

I. I will step toward God daily

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

II. I will step away from the World

A. I will step away from the hostile values of the world.

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:15-16

B. I will step away from indifference

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." Revelation 3:15-16 (Jesus' words to the Church in Laodicea).

III. I will step up my Worship

A. I will prepare my heart for worship each Sunday

B. I will fully present myself to God in worship

"Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan." John Wesley Select Hymns, 1761

IV. I will step out to others

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:34-40.

"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve." - Albert Schweitzer

Conclusion: The first four steps will result in me stepping into an experience of Jesus