



## WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT IN 2017?

Not long ago I listened to a sermon on a CD that emphasized and re-emphasized that we must be careful to boast only in the Lord. While I agreed with the idea, my spirit was unsettled with the message. In another situation a man related his difficulty in “dying to self.” He knew he was supposed to die to self but he was having a real struggle in doing so. He wanted to know how to be certain that he was dying to self. Although I knew that dying to self is scriptural, I again felt unsettled in my spirit. Something was wrong.

I asked the Lord to give me insight into these situations. A comment by Henry Blackaby in one of the Experiencing God video sessions presented the key issue: I can focus upon just one thing at a time. This is true in the physical realm. If I focus on a pole a foot away, things in the distance are blurry. If the sign in the distance is in focus, nearby things are out of focus. In the spiritual realm it is also true that I can concentrate on just one concept. If I concentrate on boasting only in the Lord, then I cannot focus on other things that might be just as important or maybe more so.

So, I must be careful to select what is my spiritual focus. Is it on how I dress or what I eat or drink? Should I be most concerned about what I do or don't do? Should I list the ways I should die to self? All these things are important, but they are not what is most important. Since I can focus upon only one thing, I really must focus upon what is really important, which is my relationship with God.

If I daily focus upon my relationship with the Father, all the other things take care of themselves. I won't need to be told to read my Bible. I will read it because that is one way I will hear my Father's heartbeat. Prayer will be automatic because I will want to share the events of my day and the concerns of my heart with the most important Person in the world to me. Dying to self won't be an issue. Boasting in the Lord will not be a dictate to practice but the fruit of our relationship. Since wicked words and improper behavior sabotage a relationship, they would be automatically avoided.

Each of us is running a race (Heb. 12:1). If you have gotten off to a poor start, you cannot go back to the starting line and try again. If you have gotten distracted, you cannot quit and enter a different race at a different time. We have one life to live, one race to run. The crowd and the concession stands can distract us. Our fans can encourage us. The race may intimidate us. But we don't focus on the crowd, the fans, or even the race. We focus upon Jesus. We focus upon our relationship with the Father through Him. He encourages us. He inspires us. He strengthens us. We start where we are and look to Him each day.

On what are you focusing? Tangents? Side issues? Your list of don'ts and do's? Or are you focusing upon what's really important: your relationship with your loving Heavenly Father?

Henry Hazard



Budget Committee

(2016

HBC Board Chairpersons & Officers) will meet Sunday, Jan 8th @ 3 p.m. @ the church to plan the 2017 budget - this meeting is open to all HBC Members.

**New Year – New Creation**

Embracing the New You in the New Year: 4- Week mini- series begins January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30



HBC's

**Annual Conference** will be Sunday, Jan 22nd, @ 3 p.m. This is open to all - come hear through our church leaders what God has done @ HBC for the year 2016! **There will be no evening Service this day.**

**Venture Out BIBLE STUDY**

We will start a study in Selected Psalms beginning Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. We will meet Thursdays, at 10 a.m. @ the Clubhouse. See you there!

Our monthly luncheon will begin on Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. @ Triple J's on Thomas Dr.



Our **Men's Meeting** for January will be Jan 17th @ 6:30 p.m. @ the church. Sign up on the foyer table at church.



**Great Commission**

**Women** will meet for food, fellowship, and a brief lesson on Alliance women's work around the world on January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. @ the Church! Sign up on the sheet on the foyer table if you plan to come.



**“YOUNG AT HEART”**

- For January will have lunch at Heritage Bible on the 13<sup>th</sup> @ 11:30 a.m. Pat Sabiston will be speaking on “Heritage Helps”. Don't miss it!

**Facts & Figures**

**Finances for November**

**For Dec 1 through Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**

General Operating Fund (GOF) Monthly Budget:	\$ 18,525.00
GOF Tithes & Offering Received( 4 Sundays):	\$ 20,825.90
General Operating Fund Weekly Budget:	\$ 4,275.00
GOF Avg. Weekly Tithes & Offerings (4 Sundays):	\$ 5,206.48

**For Year to Date 2016, (based on 12 months and 52 Sundays):**

GOF Year to Date (YTD) Tithes and Offerings Budget (monthly basis):	\$ 222,300.00
GOF Funds YTD Tithes and Offerings Budget (weekly basis):	\$ 222,300.00
GOF Year to Date Tithes and Offerings-\$223,006.24 and other GOF receipts of \$700:	\$ 223,706.24
GOF Year to Date Budgeted/Other Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ (218,455.47)
GOF Non-Budgeted & Board Approved Transfer to Associate Pastor Fund:	\$ (4,000.00)
GOF Receipts vs GOF Disbursements and Transfers to Other Funds:	\$ 1,250.77
GOF Balance as of Dec 28 <sup>th</sup> (152% of monthly budget):	\$ 28,119.61
Average Weekly Tithes and Offerings Received (52 Sundays):	\$ 4,288.59
YTD Avg Weekly GOF Budgeted & Non Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers:	\$ (4,277.99)
Missions Income: Receipts (9,388) and 24% of Tithes and Offerings (53,521.50)	\$ 62,909.50
Missions Fund Disbursements:	\$ (66,183.86)
Missions Fund Balance:	\$ 3,993.65
Building Fund Receipts:	\$ 1,164.63
Building Fund Disbursements:	\$ (0.00)
Building Fund Balance:	\$ 3,875.60
Associate Pastor Fund YTD Receipts:	\$ 15,218.00
Associate Pastor Fund Board Approved Transfer In from General Ops Fund:	\$ 4,000.00
Associate Pastor Fnd Disbursements: Monthly Compensations out of Assoc Past Fnd:	\$ 539.57
Associate Pastor Fnd Disbursements: Other Expenses:	\$ (41,955.00)
Associate Pastor Fnd Balance:	\$ 25,717.51



meet on Sundays, January 8<sup>th</sup> & 22nd