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| The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.   * What’s one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God? * What’s the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year? * What’s the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year? * In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it? * What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year? * What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church? |  | * For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year? * What’s the most important way you will, by God’s grace, try to make this year different from last year? * What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year? * What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? ……In eternity?   Another challenge you might like to do in this new year is have a small note pad or some post it notes and whenever you feel a blessing from God, some real joy that happens to you and / or your loved ones, write it down and put it into a ‘Joy Jar’.  Then, during Advent in December you can look back at these ‘Joys’ and see all the blessings you have lived through during the year. These might be as small as a random act of kindness from a neighbour or a compliment received from a friend. |

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| **A Prayer for the New Year**  Lord God, as I think about the year ahead I do have hope, but I admit I have some fears as well. I am carrying into the new year some problems from the past year. I also know that it is always possible that unexpected things might happen.  And so I throw myself on your mercy, dear God. In you I take refuge. I am glad that I can entrust the upcoming year to you, and to entrust my very self to you. Purify my heart, O Lord. Teach me your ways. Help me to make good, right, and healthy choices.  I also entrust my loved ones to you. I know how much they need your care. Please protect and guide them.  And, dear God, we pray for peace in our troubled world. We ask you to judge what is evil and to protect the innocent.  We take comfort in your words, “Behold, I am making all things new.” ([Rev. 21:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+21%3A5))  Make my life new again.  In Christ’s Name,  Amen |  | **Wakefield Baptist Church**  *Helping people follow jesus*  [http://www.alaturkadining.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ladies-lunch.jpg](http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjozPTZq7jKAhXM7hoKHQqtBrcQjRwIBw&url=http://www.alaturkadining.co.uk/ladies-lunch/&psig=AFQjCNEyMsPRaC1sBzyJuU_S-zU0gqxEEQ&ust=1453377567923414)  **Friday 27th January 2017**  **WINTER WARMER**  [Image result for New Year Funnies](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjdwcq-0drRAhXpLsAKHbSsBIkQjRwIBw&url=http%3A%2F%2Fquotesideas.com%2Ffunny-happy-new-year-pics-images-sayings-2016%2F&psig=AFQjCNHPp4OGXJ-g684ay8APJHI037EKfA&ust=1485342174722214) |