

**CCC HOW TO START A NEW 2010 P1
PART 1**

**Preparing for the New Year
Calvary Vision 2010:**

**Expansion Program and reaching out to the
non-church and the hurting.**

Let me start off by asking you a Question? If you had the year 2009 to live over again would you have done some things differently? I know I would have and the reason I would is because we all failed in areas of our life in 2009, we all came up short in areas of our lives, we all made mistakes and if possible I would like to do differently.

Sometimes in life even when you give it your best shot you come up short, don't you. For example you work on making a strong marriage and it just hasn't made any progress. You work hard with your kids with

very few results. The fact really is you're going to fail quite often in life, it's not a matter of if you will fail -- you will fail and why is that, because were human, nobody's perfect. We all make mistakes and you're going to have setbacks.

As we begin this New Year, 2010, I want us to look at How To Start A NEW in 2010 in some areas of our life? God's word, the Bible says that God is very interested in your 2010 and here is what He says to you and I. *"The Lord says, 'Forget about what has happened before. Do not think about the past. Instead, look at the new things I'm going to do.'" Circle "forget about".* Isaiah 43:18-19 He says don't think about the past failures. It's over. Learn from it and move on... Don't hold on to it like a crutch. If you don't get

anything else out of what I say today, I want you to get this: God is far more interested in your today and tomorrow, your future, than He is in your past. Some of you think God is fixated on your past... in other words you think all He wants to do is remind you of the things you've done wrong. But friends, you're wrong! God isn't interested in your past. He has a plan and a purpose for you life... He's interested in your today and your tomorrow, your future, not your past. You got to get over it... Why, because God is interested in the purpose He has for your life, in the purpose He has for you being here at Calvary. God says to you today, "You got to get over it... Forget about your past... Forget about the former things. Don't think about it, don't let it hold you back from going forward with the Lord, don't allow it to

hold you down. Why? Because God says, I have new things I'm going to do with you in 2010."

Prescription and Formulas.

I want to write you a prescription this morning. I want to give you a formula for starting a new, starting a fresh in 2010. It's in my medical journal called the bible. God says, regardless of what kind of failures you had in 2009, 2008, 2007 and what ever year or years, financial failures, relational failures, moral failures, regardless of the failures you've had in your life, here is your prescription, your formula on how you start a new, a new fresh beginning.

S – Stop making excuses. - If I want a new beginning, if I want to start fresh, start a new, you and I have to stop making excuses for my failures. I've got to stop blaming

other people, other things, whatever; I've got to stop using rationalizations for those failures. I've got to stop seeing myself as the victim of my circumstances. Let me try and make this real clear to you... This is a hard truth but it is the truth and the truth will set you free and you need to hear this, to grasp this... (PAUSE) ...Other people can hurt you, yes they can. Other people can harm you, yes they can. Other people can scar you even for life, yes they can. But nobody can ruin your life except for one person... and that person is you. Nobody can ruin your life without your permission. (PAUSE) You choose how you're going to respond to those situations, to those hurts. See, I don't know what's in front of me for 2010, and you don't either. I don't know what's going to happen in '2010. But what I do know is

I know how I am going to respond to what's going to happen in my in 2010. I know I will do everything I can to try and follow the prescription that God gives me. I will do everything I can to keep from falling back into my allowing my past hurts, habits and hang up's to controlling me and follow what God says and one way is to stop making excuses for my failures during 2010...

The Bible says that the starting point is to just be honest and accept responsibility for your part... Proverbs 28:13 *"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance."* He gets a fresh start, a new beginning, it's very hard for most people in today's society to accept their mistakes and why that is; we live in a society that likes to pass the buck? We live in a

culture that loves to shift the blame to someone else or something else. We live in a time that says to you and I, “Hey you don’t have to take responsibility for anything you do... You don’t have to take responsibility for any of your choices and actions you make, it’s always someone else’s fault. Your mother’s fault, your fathers fault, your friends that you choose to hang with faults, the movie maker, the environment, the economy, the government, our parents, our spouse, our schools, our friends, the way she dress, the devil made me do it. It's always somebody else's fault. Everything is attributed to something else. But the truth is most of your failures... you caused. You know who is the worse at this, parents, they justify all their children’s actions by blaming others for their mistakes or short comings, including

themselves.

Let me give you three of the most common reasons we fail. I want you to get these down so you can avoid them in 2010.

1 . The number one reason we fail in life is we

don't plan ahead. We go about doing things, making decisions and don't ever look at the consequences of those decisions. The Bible says (Proverbs 27:12) *"A sensible man watches for problems and prepares to meet them but the fool never looks ahead and suffers the consequences."* Those who procrastinate this verse is for you. The number two reason of why people fail is:

2) Because **we don't listen to others**. We all have excuses. We don't listen to good advice, we don’t seek

good advice we think we have all the answers. The Bible says in Proverbs 15:22 *"Plans fail without good advice."* You need to get all the good advice you can.

Let me ask you a question? Why don't we listen to the advice of other people? Mostly because we think we don't need it... we think we know it all... you know what God calls that, "pride, ego." It's when you think you know more and a better way than God does and you push Him out of the way... The Bible says, *"Pride always leads to destruction."* Proverbs 16:18. We fail as a result of not planning ahead, we fail because we don't listen or take advice and number three we fail because:

3) We **give up too soon**. Proverbs 24:10 *"If you give up when troubles come, it just shows that you are weak."* **Failure is the path of least persistence**; it's the

path of least determination. The problem is that often during trying times, we just give up and stop trying. We give up, we change course... only to move on and repeat the same thing over somewhere else

Let me clue you in on something.../ If at first you don't succeed, welcome to the human race. If at first you don't succeed, it just says you're human, you're normal. God's Word says, you're never a failure until you give up trying. We often just give up too soon.

2. Take stock - I need to take stock of my life. That means I need to evaluate all my experiences. I need to look at what I have left after the failure. If I've had a financial failure, I need to take stock of what finances do I have left. If I've had a relational failure, I need to take stock of what relationships do I have left. If I've had a

moral failure, I need to look and say, “What is God still doing in my life? What are the options? What are my talents? What are my assets? What are my connections? If you want to make a fresh start in 2010, you need to set down and do an evaluation in your life and take stock of your experiences. Regardless of what's happened in 2009, one of the things you have in 2010 that you didn't have last year, is more experience. Think about it.../ You are more experienced today and God wants you to use that experience for good. He doesn't want you to waste them. He wants you to learn from them and capitalize on them and go about doing what you need to do. Galatians 3:4 *"You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted? I hope not."*

God uses your personal experiences. The family

that you grew up in, the people you relate to. He uses personal experiences to shape you. He uses vocational and educational experiences to shape you. He uses spiritual experiences to shape you, like coming to church, going on a retreat or reading your Bible, having a quiet time with God, being involved in a weekly small group here at Calvary. And most important of all, He uses painful experiences to shape you.

As you take stock of your life in starting over, you need to ask yourself three questions.

1. What have I learned? What did you learn from last year? If you don't set down and think it through, you'll probably end up making the same mistake this year as you did last year because you didn't learn from it.
2. What are my assets? What have I got going for

me? Have I got my health? Have I got my freedom?
Am I still mentally sound somewhat? Have I got some
true friends? Have I got the Lord? Have I got a church
family? What have I got that I can count on?

3. Who can help me? When you need a fresh
start, you need somebody by your side – a friend, an
accountability partner, a support person, a support group.
Get in a small group. You need other people because
you don't start over by yourself after a failure. You need
somebody else to walk along with you.

Now in saying that you need people to help like in
a small group we also need to be careful because we all
have people in our lives and have experiences in our
lives that aren't true. What I mean is some of the
information you have in your mind is faulty information.

they may even be lies, bad information. What I am
saying is not everything you've seen, heard and
experienced are true. You can have false memories.
You can believe false things. Have people ever told you
things that aren't true? Yes. And you store them. Have
people ever said things about you that weren't true? Yes,
and you've stored them. We tend to accept what other
people say about us as true. We think they said it, it must
be true!" Someone says, "You're dumb!" you think
you're dumb. "You're lazy!" and you think you're lazy.
"You're never going to amount to much!" and you think,
yes, you're never going to amount to much. All it takes
is one coach in the third grade to say, "You're totally
uncoordinated" and guess what, for the rest of your life
to think, You may be 30, 40, 50 years or older and

some of you are still operating on old tapes made in the first grade. It wasn't true then and it's certainly not true now but you're still acting on it. Some of you are still watching movies of an experience you had on a playground or from your parents, when they were angry and said something off the top of their head, but it stuck in your mind and you're still living your life based on faulty information. You need to challenge your experiences sometimes, challenge what you have believed. You need to hold it up against the truth of God's word and say, "What does God say is true? What does God say about me, not what do other people say?"

Just because you experience something does not make it true. You can have a false experience. That's why you have to build your life not on experience but on

God's word because that is true. It is unchanging. .

3. Act in faith

This is the third step in starting a new, getting a fresh start comes by acting in faith. You have to launch out into new territory in 2010. I'm just briefly going to talk about this today and next week will get deeper into Act in faith.../ The Bible says that the key to changing anything is faith. If you want to change your circumstance, it takes faith. If you want to change your personality, it takes faith. If you want to change anything in your life, you have to have faith. Jesus says this in Matthew 9. *"According to your faith it will be done to you."* That is a very simple statement but it's very powerful. *"According to your faith it will be done to you."* That means we tend to get out of life what we

expect. *“According to your faith it will be done to you.”*

What are you expecting in 2010? If you're thinking, "I think it's going to be another tough year, depressing, rigorous year. Guess what your year is going to be in 2010? A real bummer!

This year, 2010, let's together as a church family and as individuals ask Christ to help us make a fresh start..

Let us Prayer:

Pray this prayer: “Dear God, only You can fully know the hurt in my heart. You've seen me stumble. You've watched me fall. You've watched me fail. You know where I've hurt others. Father, You also know how I've been hurt by other people. Today, as I begin to go into this New Year of 2010. I ask You to give me a fresh start. First I accept responsibility for my part of the

problems in my life. I'm going to stop making excuses. Forgive me for not listening to You. Forgive me for thinking that I knew better. Help me to take stock of the good that You've brought into my life. Help me to learn from my experiences. Today I want to act in faith. That's why I am talking to You right now. In this simple prayer, I open up my life to You. I ask You, Jesus Christ, to be my savior. I ask You to forgive me and to guide me from here on out. Help me to focus on You and Your word. I want to trust You to give me the power to start over and to do the right thing from here on. Come into my life and be in charge. In Your name, I pray. Amen.”