

# January Daily Readings



**BIBLE  
SOCIETY**  
Live light

As the New Year begins, what shall we reflect on? As Christians, it's always helpful to go back to God's Word and remind ourselves about how we are to live. We are to grow as Christ's disciples, becoming men and women of mature character and sound judgement.

- We are to be **God's people**. This calling overrides all others in our lives, and actually enhances them.
- We have a **character to be developed** – we aim to grow in Christ-likeness. We need to be working on our character, co-operating with the work of God in our lives, combating sinful habits and attitudes through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- We are to **nurture and maintain our relationship with Christ**, fellowshiping with Him regularly, and with his people.
- We are to **use the natural gifts** God has given us for his purposes.
- We are to **develop our minds and build our Christian framework of thinking**.
- We are to **live with sure hope and eager expectation** of our final inheritance in glory.

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Day	Verses	Questions	Read more
1	“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” (Philippians 1:9-10)	As this year starts, how will you seek to grow your love for God and for others?	Philippians 1:3-11
2	“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)	How can you seek to look out for other people's interests better this year?	Philippians 2:1-11
3	“...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:12-13)	God is working in you to fulfil his good purpose; with this in mind, how will you 'continue to work out your salvation' this year?	Philippians 2:12-18
4	“...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)	From these verses, how does Paul live his Christian life? How does this challenge and encourage you?	Philippians 3:7-14
5	“...live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father...” (Colossians 1:10-12)	How do these verses encourage you with life goals for this new year?	Colossians 1:3-14

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6	“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (Colossians 2:6-7)	How will you seek to ensure that your life is ‘rooted and built up’ in Jesus as this new year begins?	Colossians 2:6-15
7	“But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.” (Colossians 3:8-9)	Which traits of your ‘earthly’ nature do you want to ‘rid yourself’ of as you start a new year?	Colossians 3:1-11
8	“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)	Which godly traits to you especially yearn for? Which qualities will you be praying to have God grow in you?	Colossians 3:12-17
9	“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.” (2 Peter 1:5-7)	Peter says earlier that God has given us everything we need for a godly life. With this in mind, which of these qualities do you particularly yearn to add to your faith this year, so that you can be ‘effective and productive’ in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus?	2 Peter 1:1-11
10	“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8-10)	What does it mean in your life that you are ‘light in the Lord’? How does this make a difference each day?	Ephesians 5:1-20
11	“If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:6-7)	God is light – in him there is no darkness at all. What are the areas of ‘darkness’ you are tempted to walk in, which pull you away from fellowship with God?	1 John 1:1-10

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12	“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” (1 John 2:1)	At a time when we make New Year’s resolutions, only to find ourselves unable to keep them, how does this truth encourage you?	1 John 2:1-2
13	“...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:1-2)	In what practical ways can you seek to be more humble, gentle and patient with others this year?	Ephesians 4:1-13
14	“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.” (Ephesians 4:14)	What does this verse teach us about the importance of growing towards maturity in our faith?	Ephesians 4:14-16
15	“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22-24)	Is there an ongoing conflict in your life between your ‘old self’ and your ‘new self’? How can this verse encourage you in your walk as a Christian?	Ephesians 4:17-24
16	“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31-32)	Which character traits – bad and good – in this verse are challenging you?	Ephesians 4:25-32
17	“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)	How does this verse encourage you as this new year, with all the ministries and work you’re involved in, begins?	1 Corinthians 15:50-58
18	“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)	Which qualities of love, as described by Paul, will you aspire to (and pray to develop) this year?	1 Corinthians 13:1-13

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19	“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)	How is this verse a timely reminder at the beginning of a new year, with all the good intentions to ‘succeed’?	Ephesians 2:1-10
20	“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (Colossians 3:23-24)	How does this verse encourage you to persevere?	Colossians 3:18-25
21	“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you...” (1 Peter 1:3-4)	How is the promise of our eternal inheritance an encouragement and a source of hope in your day to day life?	1 Peter 1:1-9
22	“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.” (1 Peter 1:13)	What do you usually set your hope on? How does this verse challenge you?	1 Peter 1:13-21
23	“Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.” (1 Peter 1:22)	How can you seek to love your family, Christian friends, and church family ‘deeply, from the heart’ this year?	1 Peter 1:22-25
24	“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...” (Hebrews 10:23-24)	In what practical ways can we help those around us to live as Christians, living out our ‘love and good deeds’?	Hebrews 10:19-25
25	“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded...” (James 4:7-8)	How does this verse encourage you to renew your relationship with God?	James 4:4-10
26	“Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” (James 4:14-15)	What perspective does this verse give you? How can you commit your new year’s plans to God?	James 4:13-17

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27	“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)	How can you seek to remain in Jesus this year, in order to bear fruit for him?	John 15:1-8
28	“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” (Galatians 5:13)	In what God-honouring ways can you use your Christian freedom this year?	Galatians 5:13-15
29	“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)	Which fruit of the Spirit would you love to see brought forth in your own life this year?	Galatians 5:16-23
30	“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.” (Galatians 5:25-26)	How will you seek to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ this year? How will you avoid these traps Paul warns against?	Galatians 5:24-26
31	“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:8-9)	How are Paul’s words an encouragement to keep ‘doing good’? How is ‘doing good’ in our Christian lives put into perspective by these verses?	Galatians 6:1-10