

January is widely known and assumed as an opportunity for new beginnings. For many, new beginnings are nothing more than short-lived resolutions. For others, new beginnings can mean pretty drastic changes that result in a change in lifestyle. The latter seems to be the more effective approach to seeing sustainable and healthy change. These things that are most often relevant to individuals can also be true for the church.

Sometimes, we as leaders believe the Lord is calling us to step into some greater realm of faith and we also feel the need to call God's church into the same venture. What we often fail to do in those moments doesn't have so much to do with whether or not we will listen to the Lord, but rather if we are willing to repent for our unwillingness to listen to him sooner or confess that we are in great need of Jesus to lead us each and every day. I believe that merely starting something new in our churches is akin to a new years resolution that is only a fad that soon fades. It is when we are willing to be vulnerable with one another and repent prior to stepping out in faith where I believe real, effective change happens.



At Grace Harbor, we believe God is calling us into a deeper level of faith and action as it pertains to living on mission for him. Stated differently, God has called us to be missionaries right where we are today. Every one of us. Not just the pastors or paid staff, but those who would identify with Christ as his child. In this moment, it would be simple to merely feel the rush of momentum and start living on mission while neglecting the command to confess of our sins to God and to one another. You all know what I mean, right? Right?? How often do we want to change our behavior without wanting our heart to change? how often have we promised to “do better” without doing the necessary work of repenting where we have failed? I know this is something with which I struggle.

My hope is that this year would be a year of noticeable and impactful action in our community to reach the lost with the good news of Jesus. My hope is that this year more people would be involved in a Grace Harbor Community Groups than ever before. My hope is that our neighborhoods would sense the presence of God in them in a way they have never felt. I also know that in order for us to be the effective change we desire to see, we are being called to fall on our face before the Lord and repent of our failure in doing this as well as confess that we don't have the strength to do this in and of ourselves. We will confess 2 Peter 1:3-4 together where Peter says, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who has called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

I look very forward to sharing with you what we believe the Lord its calling us into in this new year and how we will be obedient to where he is calling us!

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