

# The Best Teacher

## I. Looking Behind and Looking Ahead

A. What should we bring with us into 2026?

B. What should we leave behind?

1. Leave behind old history. (Isaiah 43:18-19)
2. Leave behind old hurts. (2 Corinthians 5:17-18)
3. Leave behind old habits. (Isaiah 58:6)

C. I can't go back and change the beginning, but I can start where I am and change the ending.

## II. Looking Ahead to a New Year

A. Experience isn't the best teacher.

B. Evaluated experience is the best teacher.

C. 12 Measurements to use when evaluating 2025

1. Faith Life: My relationship with God.
2. Marriage Life: My relationship with my spouse.
3. Family Life: My relationship with my family.
4. Office Life: My job/school.
5. Digital Life: My time on my devices.
6. Ministry Life: My purpose in life.
7. Financial Life: My earning, giving, saving, spending.
8. Social Life: My time with friends/others.
9. Attitudinal Life: My approach to life.
10. Creative Life: My dreams and plans for the future.
11. Mental Life: My mind and my thoughts.
12. Physical Life: My body.

D. Five Clarifying Questions

1. What is my life's purpose? {Proverbs 29:18 (MSG); Colossians 1:16 (MSG); Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)}
2. What am I doing to accomplish my purpose? {Psalm 90:12 (LB)}
3. How am I doing? {Proverbs 27:23}
4. What are my values?
  - a) I Love God.
  - b) I Love People.

- c) I Pursue Excellence.
- d) I Choose Joy.
- 5. What is most important right now?
  - a) What one thing, if it got better, would make the biggest difference?
  - b) What am I not doing that I should be doing?
  - c) What am I doing that I should stop doing?

### III. What I Should Do

A. Get closer to God. {James 4:8 (NLT)}

If I want something I've never had, then I need to do something I've never done.

B. Be honest with a friend. {James 5:16 (NLT)}

Go to God for forgiveness.

Go to God's people for healing.

C. Discover my God-given purpose. {Ephesians 2:10 (TLB)}

I am created on purpose for a purpose.

D. Live my life for something that really matters. {Acts 20:24 (MSG)}

If I dedicate my life to something greater than myself, God will fill my life with passion and adventure