

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



DO I NEED THIS?

It's a new year. What will you be tempted to hold on to, to take with you into 2023,—even if it may not be helpful to living the life of "joy" as promised by a loving God?

This plant which should have been reaching for the sunlight up a trellis, was, crawling along the ground.

Imagine my surprise when I lifted it to find its tentacles clutching onto pebbles; not nutritious soil, but useless stones. Even though I lifted and moved the vine to where it was meant to be, it still held onto those little rocks.

How often are we like that vine? We clutch onto things, thoughts, hurts and desires which may not benefit us. If we thought about life choices the same way the God who loves us does, a God who is only concerned about what is best for us, we would let those things go. We would use His blessings to help us grow toward our full potential.

That potential would include a year of growing into a stronger, more loving friendship with Him, family, and friends. It often means letting harsh or angry thoughts and feelings drop away and instead grab hold of a trust which helps grow new and stronger bonds of forgiveness and love; between this caring God and yourself, between yourself and those who should be close to you.

As we head into another year full of complex issues and seemingly unanswerable questions, maybe stop and consider the advice Jesus gives "Grow your life in God's reality, God's initiative, and God's -provisions. Don't worry about missing out." (Matthew 6:33) May God give us all a year of joy.

Kevin