

THE YEAR OF THE LORD'S FAVOR

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV)

1 CORINTHIANS 1:17-18

EMBRACING A NEW REALITY

Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel--not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*Committing ourselves into the care and control of God involves the renewal of our minds initiated through *confession* that ultimately leads to *change*.*

1. The change we experience is rooted in the message of the **CROSS** which is the **POWER** of God to make us over.
2. Change for us can be **CHALLENGING**.
 - We may have been in our situation a **LONG TIME**.
 - Much in life **DISCOURAGES** change.
 - We could be **AFRAID** of what change will bring to us.
3. Understand that we cooperate with God in the change process.
 - Focus on *what we want in life*, instead of what we don't want.
 - Focus on *doing good*, instead of feeling good.
 - Focus on *people who help us*, instead of those who hinder.
 - Focus on *progress*, instead of perfection.
4. Believe that through his grace and power, God **WILL** effect change in us!

Embrace what God wants to do in us.