



Count Him In

Opening Devotion

Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15).

As the old year closes and a new year opens, we begin to think about things we would like to do in the coming 12 months. We might start making plans to build a new home or take a dream vacation. Perhaps we'll list our New Year's resolutions, like lose weight or finish school or get a better job or read the entire Bible in a year.

Of course, we're counting on God to be there each day in the new year, just as He has been throughout the old year. That goes without saying! But are we consciously counting Him in when we look forward to everything we want to do? Deliberately counting Him in our plans by saying, "If it is Your will," shifts our focus where it needs to be: not on our desires, but on His will.

We're counted among God's beloved people because Jesus consented to be counted among us. In His birth, God invites us to count Him in as we make our plans for every new year ... and every new day.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, let all our plans work out for the best, according to Your good and gracious will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Mustard Seed: The Joy of Christmas, 26/32
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Published by Lutheran Women's Missionary League, ©2011
Adapted by CREC, 2017