



Thursday Thought

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“New Year Contemplations”

Thursday January 11, 2018

Verse for the week: Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. 6 Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

The beginning of a new year is always a contemplative time. The older I get the more contemplative I get. Two years ago I lost my brother and as I was driving home from the Celebration of Life service I asked Mandy, “What will change as a result of my brother’s death?” This one question began challenging me: **“Am I being who God wants me to be? Am I allowing Him to use me? Am I walking in full dependence upon Him, or myself?”** Challenging questions, aren’t they? With this New Year I’m asking you the same questions that I asked myself.

Sunday we began a new series, **“Home Run Life”**, at the church I pastor. This series is dealing with how we can truly live a successful life. The entire premise is based on a baseball diamond. Home plate is where it all begins. As we looked at the baseball diamond, we also looked at the Life of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. When you look at Joseph’s life, he was a success. He had overcome obstacles. He had risen in power, won favor with people, won battles within himself, and most importantly, he learned to depend on God in spite of the circumstances. This is home plate. It’s where it all begins. As followers of Jesus Christ, we must learn to depend first and foremost on God--not on ourselves, not on other people, not on prosperity, not on popularity, but on God and Him alone. Apart from Him we can do nothing. If we don’t depend on God in all things first and foremost, we end up striking out. **John 15:5 (NLT) says, “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”** Think about these words “apart from me you can do nothing?” Let me type that one more time “apart from me you can do nothing.”

Let’s change the wording and read it one more time **“Apart from God I can do nothing!”**
Wow!

Question for today: What/whom are you trusting in today? Is it yourself? Other people? Prosperity (checkbook, 401K, etc)? Popularity (do you care more about what other people think than God)? Or are you fully trusting in God?