

For You, God, in 2022 – Jan. 5, 2022

Motto brings 5 words together: Love. Faith. Service. Joy. Hope.

2022 – Unknown what this year will bring; **known:** what we can bring.

We bring our talents, gifts, abilities. Hearts. Love. Unique Selves.

Ralph Waldo Emerson – “Rings & jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. . . .”

Thus, the **poet** brings a poem; the **shepherd**, a lamb; the **farmer**, corn; the **miner**, a stone; the **painter**, a picture; the **musician**, a song; the **cook**, a meal; the **carpenter**, a chair; a **tender heart**, love/compassion.

The **lasting gift** of our lives is **giving our hearts**. **Bic.**

What we do for others – from our heart - is **sharing the fruit of our spirit**.

Matt. 12:33 - “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good . . . a tree is known by its fruit.”- How are you known?

Abraham - (shepherd) – known for his faith... have a child.

Noah - (farmer) – known for faith & building an ark.

Joseph - (2nd command, Pharaoh) – known for forgiveness. Dreams.

Luke - (doctor) - known b/c he wrote the gospel.

Peter - (fisherman) – known as the Rock. Disciple.

Rahab - (prostitute) – known for saving 2 spies in Jericho.

Lydia - (merchant, purple cloth) – 1st convert. Philippi. Home to Paul...

Paul - (tent maker) – known b/c of his preaching/writing

We are more than our jobs. Jobs provide us opportunities.

Ex: Betty White. Acting paid for her love of animals.

Why they're known ... what they did ... is the fruit of their lives.

Q: What is the fruit of our lives? What impact - on others?

Too many people think they don't have any fruit to share.

Matt. 5:14 - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

We weren't made to hide. To be invisible. Made to be noticed.

God's plan was for His love to light us up. Love is revealing.

To see we're loved! Special. Unique. Gifted... to do good.

Eph. 2:10 - “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.” BSB

Our way of life is to do good works . . . God planned it, planted it.

Our good works are the gifts of ourselves. Our **Service.**

He put people in our path . . . the people around you need you.

Why do we have gifts, creativity, talent, abilities? **To shine...** be noticed.

When we do what we were created to do - **God is glorified.**

Jesus said, “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works & give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” – **Matt. 5:16**

Works don’t save us. They show that we are saved. **Show our faith.**

“Faith without deeds is dead.” – **James 2:26**

The most joy - planning to bless someone else. Serving someone.

The joy we plan to give comes right back to us.

Be intentional – “For you in 2022.” Create ways to serve others.

Life doesn’t always go as planned. Our unplanned is still God’s planned.

Motto: let there be something in this for you, God. **4 U in 22.**

This year – let’s impact others. Intentionally shine our lights.

Let’s allow God’s love to shine thru by sharing ourselves.

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for people.” – **Col. 3:23**

Big or small ... doesn’t matter. Just do. 4 U in 22

What you do for others gives ‘em hope. They’ll know - Important.

God “will not forget **your work** and the **love you have shown Him** as you have helped his people and continue to help them.” – **Heb. 6:10**

What we do for others is showing our love for God.

So... For You, God, in 2022. Show love. Be Intentional.

Song of the week: **“Light Your World”** – by Newsong.

Stay positive. Test negative. Get vaccinated.