

1-10-2024 - More in 2024

New year – goals? What are U hoping for? Need \$? Health? Job. House.
What we truly need are 4 things. **More of these 4 in 2024.**

Each week, we'll be looking at the **4 Ps** you need **more of in 2024.**

(First P stands for **Person. Power. Peace. Passion/Purpose.**)

Imagine safari. Jungle. No machete, knife, matches, food, compass.

- How would you feel? Afraid. Anxious. Anger. Hopeless. Lost.
- You weren't made for this place. Out of your element. City slickers
- Out of solutions. No direction. No energy. No hope.
 - You can now **relate** to many people . . . **life is a jungle**: broken hearts, empty wallets, disease that robs joy as much strength...
 - Not lion's roar, scream of monkeys, birds shrieking, tiger snarl; instead, Politicians... Creditors... Doctors... Bosses. Our jungles.
 - For many, **hope is in short supply**. What would it take to restore your hope in the jungle? **A person**. Not just any person.
 - Person w/ vision. Direction. U don't just need company. **Jesus**
 - *"The Lord is my Shepherd."* He leads us in the right path.
 - *"He restores my Soul."* He restores our hope. Soul lifted up.
 - Shepherd takes away **sadness**. Loneliness... Not alone.
 - *"God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble."*
 - **Confusion** lifts/have **compass**. **Despair** decrease/have **direction**.
 - Note: U haven't left jungle. Circ haven't changed; **U have**.
 - U changed b/c hope. U Hope b/c someone can lead U out.
 - **Jesus doesn't change the jungle, He changes us.**
 - We're foreigners & temporary residents of this world. Not/home.
 - But we aren't alone. He has our direction... path... vision.
 - *"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* - **John 14:6**
 - Who knows the jungle better/creator? Who knows us better?
 - U don't need bunch of stuff to weigh you down... **need Jesus**
 - **Jesus gives us hope b/c He gives us Himself**. He'll be with us Always. To the end of the ages.
 - We need this reminder. We need hope. We need **Jesus**.

If Jesus is all you have, you have all you need.

Often we want **everything else...** but that everything becomes **nothing**.

And often, we want Jesus... we want His blessings, but no burden.

We want to Receive, but have no responsibilities.

Jesus gives us Himself, but He asks us to give Him something, too: time.

- **Exodus 23:25** – “If you worship me, the LORD your God, I will bless you with food and water and take away all your sicknesses.”
 - Jesus comes to us in our worship. Prayer. Bible. Meditation.
 - “Come close to God and He will come close to you.” - **James 4:8**
- What we all **need more** of in **2024 is 1 person: Jesus**.
 - Getting thru this **life** isn't worth it if U come out w/out Jesus.

You've **got battles** in your lives? You need Jesus.

- Jesus will fight for us, just like He took our place, Calvary.
- “The battle is not yours, but God's.” – **2 Chron. 20:15**.
 - “This battle is not for you to fight; take your position, stand still, and see the victory of the LORD on your behalf” – **2 Chr. 20:17**
 - We don't wait. Impatient. Aren't still. Start fighting.
 - Our position is on our knees. Wait & watch for God. His timing.
 - Put your confidence in Him. Build faith. Restore hope.
 - You don't need an army to fight... Need Jesus.

You **need healing**? You need Jesus.

- **Matt. 8:2-3** - Suddenly a leper came and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” He said. “Be clean!” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. **Jesus is willing**
- Jarius' daughter was ill. He went to Jesus. Block out the noise.
 - We need more of Jesus. We need this person more than anything.
 - Don't make the mistake of wanting healing more than the Healer.

Think your **resources** are too low? Jesus provides.

- When a tax had to be paid at the temple, Jesus had Peter go fishing.
- When 5,000 people needed to be fed ... 1 basket, 2 fish, 5 bread.
- Widow needed to sell oil to pay debts ... the oil never ran dry.
 - **Phil. 4:19** – “And my God will supply all your needs according to *His riches* in glory in Christ Jesus.”
 - **Neh. 9:15** says God “gave them bread from heaven when they were hungry and water from the rock when they were thirsty.”
- God makes something from nothing.
- Where God guides, He will provide. In His way. **Right time.**
 - Solved too soon? We think we did it.

We live in a jungle. Thick brush blocks our view. . . not Jesus’ view.

He knows what’s coming. We could be 1 bend in the road from...

You’ll hear sounds that scare U... the unknown. Nothing unknown to J.

To get thru this jungle, we need Jesus... He is the way.

2024. What you need more of is a Person: Jesus. More of Jesus.

Song of the week: Give Me Jesus – by Danny Gokey

Announcements: Mon, Jan 15 – MLK

Tues, Jan. 16 – The Color Purple @ 7:05 pm @ CMX Cinemas/Fallschase