

2026 - Progress with Purpose (Pt. 2)

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Sub-title: **Back to Basics in 2026**

- 10 days ago we crossed over into a New Year
- Last year is gone, and a whole new year lies before us. There are:
 - new opportunities to be seized & new paths to be forged
 - new possibilities to be considered & acted upon

Deuteronomy 2:1–3 (NKJV) Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness of the Way of the Red Sea, as the Lord spoke to me, and **we skirted Mount Seir for many days.** **2** “And the Lord spoke to me, saying: **3** ‘You have skirted this mountain long enough; turn northward.’”

- God said: You have skirted this mountain long enough, turn northward
 - Skirted – going around & around, circular, non-directional
 - Turn northward – directional
- While the Israelites skirted the mountain again & again, they were definitely moving, but they were not advancing!
- God said: It's time to stop circling Mt. Seir, it's time to advance

Main points of last week's message:

- A. Receiving clear direction from the Lord for 2026
- B. Exodus - Geographical Facts (39 years added to a 3 month journey)
- C. We should ask ourselves - Have we circled any Mountains in 2025?
- D. Example set by Ap. Paul (he didn't live a "circular" but a "directional" life)
- E. Ap. Paul also encouraged Ps. Timothy to ensure Progress in his Life
- F. Identifying Areas of potential Advancement & Progress in 2026
- G. Specific Areas (mountains) to tackle in 2026

1. Living Life from an eternal Perspective

Luke 21:25–29 (NKJV) *And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; 26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

- Jesus is speaking to His disciples about His return to earth (2nd Coming)
- He described the signs & conditions near the time of His return
 - Cosmic disturbances (Sun, moon & stars – “shaken”)
 - **On earth, distressed nations (NLT... nations in turmoil)**
 - **perplexity** – “at a loss of how to proceed”
 - At sea, roaring waves (atmospheric and / or seismic disturbances)
- Before Christ’s return, there will be a period called the Great Tribulation
- During this 7 year Great Tribulation, the Antichrist will be revealed & rise to power

2. Distressed Nations

- Most European nations are greatly distressed
 - Years of leftist (Marxist) policies have ruined some of the strongest economies in the world
 - Years of uncontrolled immigration have opened the door to an Islamic invasion
- Russia and Ukraine are still locked in a nasty & ghastly war
- Venezuela has just gone through a (forced) regime change (Marxist)
- Iran is about to experience a regime change (Islamist)
- Communist China is still threatening to invade Taiwan (Marxist)
- Etc.

3. Jesus said: I will build my Church

- Interesting, Jesus did not say: I will build nations ...
- He said: I will build my church ...
- There is a strong conviction that we, the church, should be involved in building the nation

Matthew 16:18 (NKJV) And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

- The word “church” is reference to all born again believers world-wide
 - YLT ... I will build my assembly ... (Gr. ekklesia)
- The words “gates of hades” refer to the “government of hell”
 - Ampl. ... the powers of the infernal regions ...
 - Wuest NT. ... the councils of the unseen world ...
- Although the government of hell is wreaking havoc in the nations, it can’t prevail (withstand) against us, the church, nor can it overpower us

- The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is supranational, transcending nations
- A strong church world-wide is made up of strong local assemblies
- Strong local assemblies are made up of strong Christians

4. Strong Christians are built by keeping strong Commitments

a. A strong commitment to reading the Bible regularly

Matthew 4:4 (NKJV) *But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’”*

- Christians live, grow & stay strong “by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God”
 - Milk of the Word (1 Peter 2:2)
 - Meat of the Word (1 Corinthians 3:2 KJV)
 - Strong meat of the Word (Hebrews 5:12 KJV)
- Just like the Israelites needed fresh manna every day, so we receive fresh “manna” by reading God’s Word every day
- Commit to a regular Bible Reading Plan (Read through the Bible in a Year)

b. A strong commitment to praying

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

- A strong prayer life ensures a strong relationship with God
- Commit to joining our Sunday morning prayer meeting at 9.30 am

Jude 20 (NKJV) *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*

- Praying in the Holy Spirit – praying in tongues
- When we pray, we are building ourselves up spiritually

c. A strong commitment to the local church

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NLT) *Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

- Satan is trying very hard to disconnect Christians:
 - From their local church
 - From the teaching of the Word of God
 - (Remove them from God's wisdom, to lead them into deception)

d. A strong commitment to fasting (and prayer)

Matthew 17:19–21 (NKJV) *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” 20 So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

- Certain kinds of demons don't come out “except by prayer and fasting”
- Deep-seated unbelief doesn't come out “except by prayer and fasting”
- Certain “mountains” in our lives aren't conquered “except by prayer and fasting”
- Join our weekly “Friday Fast” – (miss breakfast & lunch on Fridays. Fast from Thursday evening after dinner, up to Friday dinner time)

e. A strong commitment to reaching spiritually lost people

Proverbs 11:30 (NKJV) *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.*

- Christians who “share their faith” usually “have strong faith”
- Sharing Christ with others brings a fresh revelation of Christ in our own lives

Dake Annotated Reference Bible: (notes on 2 Tim. 3:16)

- (The Bible) is the book that reveals the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, & the happiness of believers
- Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories true, & its decisions immutable
- Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe & practice it to be holy
- The Bible contains light to direct you, food to support you & comfort to cheer you
- It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword & the Christian's charter