

# Turning On Focus Mode

Sunday Morning  
Pastor Jim Lowe III  
Sunday Morning, 9:30am Stream  
1/2/22 (1st Sunday Message)

*{All scriptures are NIV84 unless stated}*

This is the first Sunday of 2022!

God has allowed us to see another year!

2021 has now come and gone!

Just when you get used to writing 2021...it's a new year!

We've been through a lot the last couple of years.

We left 2019 going into 2020 saying "This is our year!"

We all know what happened in 2020.

We spent most of 2021 trying to recover.

2 Years Ago:

Many of us may have lost someone we knew.

Many of us lost our jobs.

We had a worldwide virus SWEEPING the world.

We ALL had to cope with the effects of quarantine.

The mask debates...

2021:

Then the vaccines begin.

Many of us changed careers.

Started self-employment.

We have the delta variant.

Now we have the Omicron variant.

The last few years have shown us many challenges.

Things that hit us as ALL people.

Even in the midst of the UNEXPECTED things of the last few years:

We can say CONFIDENTLY in 2022:

## **1. God Has Been Faithful**

## **2. We Are Still Here**

This tells us that God has kept us.

### **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

**11 Here is a trustworthy saying:**

**If we died with him,  
we will also live with him;**

**12 if we endure,  
we will also reign with him.**

**If we disown him,  
he will also disown us;**

**13 if we are faithless,  
he will remain faithful,  
for he cannot disown himself.**

Same scripture in the MSG version:

### **2 Timothy 2:11-13 (MSG)**

**This is a sure thing:**

**If we die with him, we'll live with him;**

**If we stick it out with him, we'll rule with him;**

**If we turn our backs on him, he'll turn his back on us;**

**If we give up on him, he does not give up—  
for there's no way he can be false to himself.**

If we die with him...

We will live with him...

if we endure bad times with him.

we will go through great times with him.

If we leave him...

He will leave us.

But even if we lose all hope and faith...

He will remain faithful.

There may have been many times during the last year that we didn't know how we were going to make it.

Our health may have been in question.

Our finances may have been in question.

Our sanity may have been in question.

The WEIGHT of everything may have been heavy.

We may have wanted to give up.

But God did not give up on us.

God has kept us.

{repeat}

## **"God Has Been Faithful"**

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**

**3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.**

If we don't have anything to thank God for...

We should thank him for his faithfulness.

And there is a scripture we can use every time God makes a promise.

**Hebrews 13:8**

**8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

This and other scriptures like it are to remind us that if God has done something before...

He can do it again.

If God was faithful before...

He can be faithful again...

So if we can trust God to be faithful to us...

If we can trust God to keep us...

Then instead of worrying about our circumstances...

*(...instead of wondering how we may make it this year...)*

Let's regain our focus for 2022.

## **Let's Re-Focus For 2022!**

Who does this happen to?

You set a plan to do some yard work.

Yet the day you want to do it...you wake up tired.

...you get an unexpected call.

...you realize that there are things in the other room that need to be put up.

...the kitchen had some dishes in the sink you forgot to do.

...you open the fridge and realize something is in there that needs to be thrown out.

...something else happens that AT THE MOMENT seems more important.

...when the day is over...

...we didn't set out to do what we accomplished.

How often does this happen?

We set a goal...

And distractions keep us from the goal.

This is why they say resolutions fail!

We set out to do things and end up letting other things STOP us from doing them!

## **Don't Let Distractions Become More Important Than The Goal!**

Distractions MAY be important!

If you wake up tired, you might NEED rest!

You might NEED to clean the fridge!

You might have other things that need to be done...

But you SET out to accomplish a goal!

Many of us set out to accomplish goals last year...

We spent last year talking about purpose.

Many of us set out to walk in that purpose last year.

## **Things We Tried To Do In 2021:**

- **Get Closer To God**
- **Walk In Purpose**
- **Come To Church More**
- **Let God Work On Us**

But as we started to do those things...

Distractions came up.

With all that was going on.

We weren't able to go after our goals like we wanted.

The things that stopped us may have been important.

But we STILL have those goals to accomplish.

How does the bible say we should accomplish these goals?

The bible talks about what we are FOCUSED on.

### **Proverbs 4:25**

**25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.**

Fix our gaze...

Focus our attention...

Straight ahead...

Look in the direction you're trying to go.

When you look in different directions...you SEE things that distract you.

You SEE things outside of the goals you set.

## **In 2022, Let's Turn On Focus Mode!**

Focus mode means to do what's necessary to lock out distractions.

It means to "zero in" on what you're trying to do.

Even our phones have some type of "focus mode."

They will prevent you going to social media and entertainment sites...

They do this so you won't get distracted from what you're trying to do.

Where is our focus?

What are we focused on?

What SHOULD we be focused on?

**Psalm 121:1-8**

**1 I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3 He will not let your foot slip— he who watches over you will not slumber; 4 indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5 The Lord watches over you— the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6 the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7 The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; 8 the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

What can we see from this?

**from Psalm 121:**

**-My Help Comes From The Lord**

**-He Will Not Let My Foot Slip**

**-He Is Always On Guard**

**-He Will Protect Me**

The Lord is doing all of these things.

All we need to do is one thing...

**Psalm 121:1**

**1 I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? 2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.**

All we need to do...

is FOCUS on the Lord.

To keep our EYES/ATTENTION/FOCUS on the Lord.

**Affirmation:**

**“I Will Accomplish My Goals, Because I Am Focused On The Right Things!”**

We MUST watch our focus!

If we are to go after any goals this year...ESPECIALLY what the Lord has for us...we have to be focused!

**Philippians 3:15-16 (MSG)**

**So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it.**

## **Stay Focused On The Goal! Stay Focused On God!**

Anytime you really want to do something...something usually comes up to stop you from doing it!

There is always something ELSE that needs to be done.

We should be going after the things of God...

To do that, we have to fix our attention on what's important.

## **Stop Allowing Distractions! Turn On Focus Mode!**

There is always something else that needs to be done.

But what are we LOOKING at?

**Psalms 119:37**

**37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.**

The things we're trying to do...

They may be important...

But are they WORTH stopping you from going after God?