

January 2017

From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

I came across this poem from Unity and as we prepare to embrace the New Year I thought it could help us on our spiritual journey.

This Is The Year!

*Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you,
This is the year that your dreams come true!
This is the year that your ships come in;
This is the year you find Christ within.
This is the year you are glad to live;
This is the year you have much to give.
This is the year when you know the Truth;
This is the year when you find new youth.
This is the year that brings happiness;
This is the year you will live to bless.
Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you,
This is the year that your dreams come true!*

During the month of January our focus is on the attribute of faith and how it is expressed in our life and affairs. As the above poem states, "This is the year that your dreams come true."

We have the potential to step out in faith to discover the wonders and blessings that God has in store for us as we continue our spiritual journey to live a life of well-being as we allow our divine potential to emerge in and through the human condition.

I am reminded of Paul's words to the people when he said, "God is pleased to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery..., which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (Col 1:27). Again the words in the above poem affirm this very statement with, "This is the year your ships come in, This is the year you find the Christ within."

One year, not too long ago, a young lady came up to me after one of the Sunday services and said, "Rev. Chuck, my life would be so much easier if I didn't have to deal with the people in my life. I believe I could experience a stronger faith if I didn't have their problems to deal with

too." How many of us have said or thought that very thing at one time or another? If I didn't have to deal with _____, my spiritual life, my prayer life, my sense of well-being would be so much better. Too often our faith takes a turn to the negative, as in this lady's statement, "I believe..." Jesus taught that faith is essential to making your life into what you want it to be. He said, "As you believe, so it shall be done unto you" (Matthew 9:29).

If we view other people, situations, or circumstances as stumbling blocks on our spiritual path, then we have misplaced our faith in God as the provider of all that is good. Again the poem reminds us that "this is the year that brings happiness; this is the year you will live to bless." Our happiness is not in fixing or controlling other people. When we bless them, we release them to be themselves, knowing God has a plan for them, we just need to get out of the way.

Here is a way we can develop strength and courage of faith for ourselves to do just that as we offer this blessing to others:

I have faith in God to bless you and...

- 1) Allow you to find the God of your understanding-however and wherever you choose;
- 2) Allow you to make what I may perceive to be foolish mistakes;
- 3) Allow you to maintain your dignity and never let you take mine away;
- 4) Allow you to be in emotional pain when you choose;
- 5) Allow you to grow at your pace without resentment;
- 6) Allow you to know what you need without my interference;
- 7) Allow you to become the beautiful person that you are;

I have faith in God to bless you and let you be you.

And so, dear friends, "wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you, this is the year that your dreams come true!" Happy New Year!