

Have you ever heard something profound, and it just stays with you for a while? Not only is it always on your mind, but you keep hearing similar thoughts on the subject, from actors, commentators, social media, and often, from my pastor. This happened this past week, and I wanted to share a little bit.

I don't really make New Year resolutions anymore. I have an ongoing resolution or plan in place, to just to stay in God's will, each and every day. Once you make that your focus, everything else that is good and just will fall into place. Yes, I get off track from time to time, but it always comes back to seeking His direction for my life.

I don't know if you're like me, but after the Christmas decorations are all put away and the last piece of Christmas candy has been eaten, I spend more time than I should just vegging out watching TV or seeing what's happening in Facebook land. Today I saw a clip of a comedian asking why grocery stores place the top shelf way too high, making it impossible to grab our desired cereal. He was hilarious! And animal clips never fail to amuse. Either way, you can't watch very long before you're slammed with advertisements.

Two that have been calling out to me are teeth whiteners and bras that 'lift and support' we women who are, shall I say, a little older, with very little spring left in our chest area. I've never had pearly white teeth, and I've tried the mouth pieces that you wear while sleeping. I've tried different toothpastes that mislead you into thinking your teeth will be blazing white after the first application.

The bras advertised are made to look like they are the best thing since sliced bread, and I admit, they almost got me. But then I remembered I work from home, and I really don't do a large amount of socializing. So really, who cares? I have discovered sport bras, which I love. They keep me in one place, and I don't have bumps and bulges all over my back.

I know I'm dating myself here, but I still ask, "What would Jesus do?" or in this case, "What does Jesus care about?" He has blessed me with still having my original teeth. They aren't stark white, but they are serving their purpose! And I really doubt if he's worried about which bra I wear. This is what led me to rethinking my priorities. Wouldn't the money I spend on these products targeting my vanity be better used for His kingdom?

Pastor Rick Warren has been speaking on this topic a great deal in his "Daily Hope" devotions, and our Pastor spoke on this topic just today. In Acts, Chapter 9, starting in verse thirty-six, they describe how a faithful and believing woman named Tabitha (her Greek name was Dorcas), had served so many by providing them with food and clothing. Tabitha became ill and died. Those who had been ministered by her begged the apostle Peter to do something. Peter went into the room where she was laid out, and he asked all the mourners to leave. He prayed, and she came back to life.

Obviously, Tabitha was an extraordinary woman and was beloved by those she served. I know that not all of us are called to be like Tabitha, but all of us have been given certain gifts from God, and it is our job to determine what our purpose is, based on those gifts.

I recently heard a testimony by John Rich (from the country singing group Big and Rich), where he shared how he learned the difference between 'success' and 'significance.' He shared how wonderful it was to

become a great success in the music industry, and that success as a songwriter, musician, singer, were his lifelong goals. Years later, as a Christian, he started seeing how insignificant all of the fame and accolades really were when it came to his God given purpose. He said he didn't want to just be remembered for making music. He wanted his life to be significant for the kingdom of God.

So that's where my head is today. I'm trying to be purposeful in setting my priorities in this new year. No matter what is happening in my life, I can praise and thank my dear Lord for blessing me so richly. The least I can do for him is to tell others about the hope he brings, and use my resources to help my loved ones, and my fellow man.

I earnestly pray that this new year of our Lord, 2026, will be your best, and that you will enter into a personal relationship with Jesus if you haven't already. Then, may you live your life with purpose and may it be filled with abundant blessings.

Lisa Jo

