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Plan to Change

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Hello my friend,

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas, even if it may have been different this year. (I know, 'wonderful' might be a stretch if you didn't get to spend it with those you love. But remembering the birth of our Savior is always a wonderful thing to do :)

You're probably relieved that the big day is over, because of all the planning and gearing up that happens for it. I hope it all went as planned. (And even if it didn't, you'll be okay.)

Now it's time to look forward to the next big holiday, New Year's Day!

I suppose this one will be quite different too. Not too many parties happening this year ;)

But, the new year will happen, with or without parties, and it will bring a desire for change. A time to start fresh, to set goals, make plans, and determine how you personally will get better or make things better for yourself. And 'better' is completely defined by you.

I like the idea of everyone setting goals and making new years resolutions, it's always a good idea to improve. But you know what usually happens: we don't stick to them.

Yes, it's very common, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try. Trying to change is a lifelong pursuit. We do it all the time and all our life. (We just get a little ambitious in January ;)

We continually change by following our exemplary change agent and ultimate coach, Jesus Christ.

He is the way to change that really matters.

He first set an example for us to follow. And for us to know what he did and all the details of his example (because life is complicated) we need to study his words. Not only what he did and said while he lived on the earth, but his words to the prophets before and after he came to earth. And also all the details of his message that prophets have written about throughout time and even today.

Then we'll know what to do and how to change.

Doing it is another matter.

But the Lord helps us. He set up a plan. He knows that we're more likely to change when we make commitments. So he instituted ordinances that are physical reminders of spiritual realities to help us make commitments or covenants that help us change to become more like him.

They lead us on a path through life. And we change.

Not instantly, or easily, but we do change. Based on our choices it can be closer to Christ's example or away from it. In this case, He has defined 'better'.

And what's awesome is that He knows it was going to be difficult. That we would make mistakes, and probably spend most of our time not following His example. So He has a plan for that too.

He covered for us. He took care of all the punishment for all our mistakes.

That's why He was sent here. "That I might draw all men unto me" (3 Nephi 27:14).

And that's why we worship Him.

His plan is perfect. It's working.

And we can plan to follow His plan.

And if it doesn't all go as planned, we'll be okay.

The goal is to keep trying. Take smaller steps in the right direction. Smaller is better. That's how we can make it easier to stick to our goals. It's the direction that counts.

So make some goals this week. Accomplish them one small step at a time. Make progress. You'll change.

And your coach, mentor, and advocate, Jesus Christ, will be with you all along the way.

He wants you to succeed.

I care too.

Ambitiously,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

This week it's Group A's turn to attend church in person (Last names A-L). And everyone else can watch the broadcast at this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQM_SmjDFmwHAA6lfjtseg/live

A big change is coming next week... we start church at 9:00am!

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.