

# ***A NEW YEAR...WHAT WILL IT BRING?***



*Open Hands Anke Wiemer*

***They asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"***

***He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority....."***

**The Father knows what the New Year will bring.**

**We don't.**

All we know is that we are commanded to stay awake, so that we're ready for whatever comes.

**Awake**, conscious of God's presence in the midst of the unfolding of events, near and far.

**Awake** to Jesus' call to obedience today.

**Awake** to the reality of evil---"for we are not contending against flesh and blood....."

**Awake** to our neighbor's cry for help.

**There is only one way to enter the New Year with wisdom:**

To shake off our spiritual dullness and wake up to the life-giving Word of the Lord.

***"....You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...."***

***"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."***

It's not, What will the New Year bring to me? but ---

**What will I bring to it?**



Expectant by Anke Wiemer

***"Moses, my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them....."***

***Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."***

**Joshua 1:2&9**

*Prayer- Lord prepare us for the coming year. Protect us from fear of what the future is bringing. Keep us from trying to manage and control what we aren't meant to manage and control. Instead, keep us awake to your presence, keep us awake to your call, keep us wary of evil, and keep us carrying your mercy. May we face the coming year free from dismay and fear, May we face the year with faith, strength and courage because you promise to be with us wherever we go. Dear Lord, come with us into the coming year and all the years ahead of us. Amen.*

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THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

