

2025? It's Gonna Be Lit!

Maybe it's my youth group roots showing

Involved in youth ministry from soon after getting saved until basically leaving NY

Lit (as defined by urban dictionary)

1. A term used to describe something that is cool and exciting, or just generally something you would want to experience.
2. In literal terms, it means if something is on fire, or catches fire.
3. actually becomes un-lit when overused or used excessively

You and I are Gonna be lit for something

The question is: what and who for?

[Pray]

What are you most excited about in the new year?

- New movie?
- A sport (I'm counting down the days to F1, but only half out of excitement and boredom)
- A planned vacation -
maybe you're finally visiting Hawaii, or finally going to fabulous Butte (no offense, Butte)
- New 2025 car or hairstyle

If it's these things that you are most excited for above all else - than maybe you're only set on fire by the things of the world

OR

- Maybe you're wondering what God is going to do this year
- You've been praying for your family, for your coworkers
- You've been praying for direction - not just for the basics - *but God, what do you want me to do to serve you this year? To serve others?*

Are you set on fire by the things of heaven?

Pentecost (*Acts is really Luke, Part II*)

Acts 2:1-4, 6-8, 14-19, 21 NKJV - When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a

rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. ... And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? "And how [is it that] we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? ... But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is [only] the third hour of the day. "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ... And it shall come to pass [That] whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.'

Living Sacrifice

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Laodicea

Revelation 3:15-19 NKJV - "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'--and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, [that] the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

Parable of Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-3, 5-13 NKJV - "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. "Now five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. "Those who [were] foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ... "But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. "And at midnight a cry was [heard]: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' "Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. "And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us [some] of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' "But the wise answered, saying, '[No], lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell,

and buy for yourselves.' "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' "But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

(I don't know that it fits, but it's such a great quote)

"These traits [of Jesus], as I read them in systematic theology and their treatment of His nature, place Jesus beyond my reach -- sometimes, I think, safely so. ... When that first cry was heard from the stable of Bethlehem...came a wrinkled, blood-covered baby...the God...only heard could now be seen and touched. All that he was now occupied human flesh...approachable, available, vulnerable. Yet, mankind prefers the unseen, distant God. **We have difficulty with the God who is living flesh. We would rather wrestle with principles, dogmas and ideas than hear him call us to himself as a person.**"

The Jesus Style, pp. 2-4

2025 is going to be lit, one way or another

- **Wars** WW3, ukraine, russia, china (6th gen fighter for guam), us 6th gen bomber
- New weapons - Short range ICBMs - Russia tested and hit Ukraine with,
- New administration - will we even make it to Jan 20?
- Comets, drones, alien invasion...people are spiritually open to the skies, but not to the things of heaven
- There will be new scandals
- New riots
- New "problems" with new "solutions"
- New gadgets, gizmos, entertainment, celebrities of the month

A warning:

In 2025, watch out for more lies, deception, "disinformation"

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 NKJV - The coming of the [lawless one] is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

The new year is just about here... New year's resolutions!

Did you make any last year? Did you keep any?

Weight loss, business or school success, learning a new thing, doing more things

It wasn't a resolution, but we wanted to do more things as a family last year.

Definitely did more, but more to be done! Less time wasted on the couch more time out enjoying sights and sounds, especially when the weather is nice

How about this year?

I'm not one to make resolutions based on an arbitrary calendar date

Vows - better not to make than make and not keep

But can we agree it's good to have goals?

Have desires to have a better lifestyle?

Not just a resolution to live up to

let's admit, we're all going to fall short of the resolution

And if it's pass or fail, as soon as we fail, we'll give up and go back

But since the new year is now, what if we all agreed, for ourselves personally, and for us as His church, to live this year for the Lord?

What would that look like?

What could he do this year?

What do we want to see him do, anything?

Have we been content with *normal*? Average?

**What if we lived like the apostles? The Christians in Acts?
The OT saints?**

**Not that they got it all right by far - but that they were on fire
All spiritually. Some literally.**

Gayle Erwin and the Apostles

**Do you know that God has called you?
And said you're his special poem?**

*The author of the Universe, time itself, of everything...has written a wonderful story for
your life...if you want to live it!*

Poema

Ephesians 2:10 NKJV - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

The Upward Call, Heavenly Citizenship

Philippians 3:12-15, 17-21 NKJV - Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. ... Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end [is] destruction, whose god [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

So...What could this year look like?

Remember, It's going to be lit...

What if Jesus came back this year? He could!

Matthew 24:36, 42-44 NKJV - "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. ... "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Can't know the specific date and time

So don't believe any new "prophets" that pop up claiming the rapture is happening on May 12th at 3:48pm

Matthew 24:32-33 NKJV - "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer [is] near. "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!

But, we should be aware of the general atmosphere (like Days of Noah)

Giving in marriage - planning for the future, YOLO, everyone loves to fight, right up until the rain drops started

Our society stepping back and just filming - even when a lady is burned alive on the subway in NYC, and a few days later someone else in Penn Station

In your life, is it dark or light?

Like the 10 virgins, is your spiritual oil lamp burning? Or has it gone out?

What lights up your life? What do you turn on to warm up?

The things that warm the world, do they warm you?

Peter by the fire

The things that light up heaven make the things of the world go dark

The things that light up the world make you spiritually blind

Don't we want to be ready? Because heaven is going to be LIT

*Thinking about funeral songs, I'm going to be so excited to be in heaven -
the funeral is for you, not for me!*

If the Lord tarries another year... how do you want to look back on 2025?

- Full of abundant life,
- fulfilled hopes
- and answered prayers?

- People saved?
- The church healthy?

Good things **GOD THINGS** happening

- in our lives,
- in our families,
- in Helena?

Will we be ready for Jesus?

Revelation 19:7-8 NKJV - "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

How much time do we really have?

We assume 2025, 2026...do we ever think about our last day and how much time we have left?

Psalm 90:12-13 NKJV - So teach [us] to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants.

Appointed once to die then the judgment
Redeem the time for the days are evil

This year is going to be lit -

And the fire is going to get worse. The future has been seen and told to us!

Even the elements burn up with a fervent heat

In light of all of this

Will you and I let the Lord light us on fire this year?

Back to Romans 12:1-2 NKJV -

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what [is] that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

John 17:14b NKJV - ...they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

It's going to be lit!

Hide it under a bushel, no!

**Let's let Him use His Word, His Spirit,
Our Lives surrendered - to light the way**