

Word of the Year

I always like to start the New Year off with a new word to guide my thoughts and focus. My word in 2020 was JOY. The year was full of opportunities. I found JOY in knowing God was in control and I wasn't. All I needed to do was keep **the eyes of my heart** focused on Him for direction, peace, and JOY.

My word for 2021 is PRESENCE—spending more time in God's presence. He says, "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10) This busy girl *needs* to sit more at the feet of the One she serves, taking in His presence and worshiping Him in her heart and through His Word. Keeping **the eyes of my heart** focused on God will bring peace, direction, and abundant joy with eternal benefits!

Psalm 16:11 *"You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. (NLT)*

"Feed your fears and your faith will starve.

Feed your faith, and your fears will."

— Max Lucado

The above Max Lucado quote could be the 2021 Diet of the New Year! We don't know what challenges and changes (I call them opportunities) the new year will bring, but if we live on a "Feed your Faith" diet instead of a "Feed your Fears" diet, I know our hearts will be renewed, strengthened, and confident that God's presence will bring us hope, joy, peace, and eternal pleasures through Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 54:10 — *"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,' says the Lord, who has compassion on you."*

My husband was laid off in March due to COVID downsizing of the company he worked for. He has applied numerous places for another accounting position, but it seems no one is hiring a 63-year-old. We could be bitter about it all, but we CHOOSE to look at the opportunities God is putting before him. He is getting precious time to spend with his parents (his mom is on hospice and is in a long-term-care setting) and is serving with our KSC ministry. We don't know how we are making it financially, but God is faithful and has provided for all our needs. We are experiencing God's love, His peace, and His compassion, as Isaiah 54:10 says.

Whatever new word, attitude, or discipline you aspire to in 2021, remember **Hebrews 12:11** *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.* This Hebrew 12:11 scripture is also good to remember when you are going through rehab for an injury or illness. Whether spiritual or physical discipline is needed, be encouraged! May you find the enclosed REHAB Scripture helpful in your time of need. Memorize it. Embrace it. Celebrate it. Discipline is for our good!

I mentioned and highlighted the words ***eyes of my heart*** in this letter. There is a chorus to this Scripture. I have included the lyrics for your encouragement. To hear the remarkable story of a young blind and autistic boy singing this song, find a computer and type in <https://www.refreshinghope.org/videos/4149/4326/open-the-eyes-of-my-heart-duffley>. Hearing a blind child sing this brings perspective.

I have taken the Scriptures mentioned and personalized a response to them for you to pray back to our Lord.

I know we will be getting together again in 2021 to share in fellowship, sing hymns, search Scripture, and spend time in prayer for each other. We look forward to that glorious day! Good things are ahead! *Happy New Year*

Christine Brisco & the OG Bible study team of Jan Yost and Nancy Pierce

PRAYER RESPONSE TO SCRIPTURE

Psalm 16:11 *Lord, thank You for showing me the way of life which is through Christ Jesus! Thank You for granting me the JOY of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever! My heart is full knowing and embracing these promises!*

Isaiah 54:10 *Though the mountains may move, and the hills may disappear, I have full confidence in Your faithful love for me and Your promise of peace that You give me. Thank You for your loving mercy and compassion on me, a sinner saved by Your grace through Your Son.*

Hebrews 12:11 *I don't really like to be disciplined because it can be unpleasant and painful. But I know that Spiritual and even physical discipline produce right living when I stay faithful and continue to train hard and persevere. Thank You for Your discipline, Lord, for You discipline those You love.*

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Max Lucado

Koinonia Senior Care:

Enriching the lives of homebound seniors and their caregivers
and encouraging our community to join us!

Mailing address: 13303 W. Maple, Suite 139, PMB #128, Wichita, KS 67235

kscare4u@gmail.com • 316.209.9028 • www.kscare.org

Rehab Scripture

Hebrews 12:11-13

¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

¹² Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

- Persevere in times of trials!
- Train your spiritual muscles for faith and your physical muscles for endurance
- Our soul and our body need discipline and correction for right living
- REHAB with  & Physical Therapy

Open the Eyes of My Heart

By Michael W. Smith

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (x2)

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You (x2)

To see You high and lifted up
Shinin' in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy (x3)

Holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
You are holy, holy, holy
I want to see you (x8)

Source: [LyricFind](#), Songwriters: Paul Joseph Baloche

Ephesians 1:18 ¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*

Psalms 119:18 *Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.*



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of my heart,
Lord**

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