

# A Year of God's Abundance

Acts 5:32-42

Psalm 65:4-11

**Introduction:** Ken and Betty Rice, retired from serving the Church of the Nazarene in the capacities they had held, both employed at Headquarters in Kansas City, Ken heading up the Sunday School ministries department and Betty working in Communications. And at the age of 68, God introduced them to their new area of ministry... Marriage Enrichment! At nearly 70 yrs. of age, Ken and Betty, youthful as ever, were the ones who took Robin and I through ME training 14 yrs. ago. They were vibrant, alive, and motivated... not because of their years, or in spite of them, ***but because they served a God who is in the business of doing a brand new thing! ALWAYS!***

So are we. And this has certainly been a year of God doing a brand new thing! He has done it in your personal lives.. those, who, like Ken and Betty Rice, allowed Him to! **And** He has done it in the life of our church corporately.

- for some of you He has opened a brand new field of ministry...

one you never thought you could do.. a brand new thing!

- for some he has closed doors and forced other changes in your life... shaping and molding you to be more like Him... a brand new thing!

-for yet others He has drawn you to Himself... overcoming you past, your teachings, your fears, and your ignorance... life in Christ IS a brand new thing!

- - for the church as a whole - -

He has begun small group ministries.. a brand new way of doing things!

He has changed our worship focus... its all about HIM! and for some... that's a brand new thing!

He has taken some through the most difficult days in your lives, and he has taught... is teaching you to forgive, to reconcile, to live in harmony.... a brand new thing!

He has replaced anger with peace, He has destroyed strongholds and replaced addictions with victory! And this IS a brand new thing!

He HAS done it, & will continue to do it in the lives of those who serve God expecting Him to be a ***God of Brand New Things!***

**So what is to come....** what does the Year 2002 hold for you, for me, for us as a church and an arm of His love?

Let's look at Acts Chapter Five..

believing that God has know since the beginning of time that we would be here, in this passage, at this time, asking just THAT question, I asked myself the answer to that same question?

### **Acts 5:34-42**

Gamaliel - the most revered rabbi - teacher in all of Israel. He was called the Teacher of Teachers. You might remember that Paul, when he was listing his list of technical qualifications, that were in essence useless in personally knowing God... he listed that he had been taught under Gamaliel!

Was Gamaliel one of the few Pharisees that truly sought God? Did Gamaliel believe that Christ was the Son of God? Was Gamaliel secretly on the side of the apostles... or was he simply making sure that they didn't all do something foolish that would cause the crumbling of their power structure?

I have come to an absolute conclusion on this. I know for certain and without a doubt... that I don't know!

But this I do know.... he was used of God. Believer or not, he was a tool of God! For or against, he became a resource of the Almighty!

Look with me at **Psalm 65** -

we are often surprised by God...

shocked by what He is able to do, able to provide, able to interject or create in our lives... and yet, we... His children, shouldn't be shocked! In awe, yes. But not amazed!

The Psalmist understood who God was...

### **Psalm 65: 4-11**

- - ***Being clothed with power***; - you are what you wear... takes on new meaning here!

-- our prayer will be.....

River of God:

be our source

River of God

wash us clean

River of God

purify us

River of God

sanctify us

River of God

set us apart

River of God

be our laughter and our joy

River of God

revive us

River of God

set our feet to dancing!

River of God

sweeten our lives with your bountiful supply until all mankind looks at us and pauses to ask themselves.... what is the source of their joy?

And we can answer.... the river of God is our abundant source!

**2002** and will be...

## **the Year of God's abundance!**

to the yielded believer,

to the surrendered life,

to the totally committed and entirely sold out...

God's desire is to make this **the first year** that you begin to walk in HIS ABUNDANCE!

Key Word - Abundance

Scripture Cross References

Acts 5:32-43

Psalms 65:4-11

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