



## What If? Why Not?

*Acts 4:31* And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

*32* Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. *33* And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

*Luke 1:37* *37* For with God nothing will be impossible."

### I. Introduction

A. *We meet today on this first Sunday of a New Year.*

**We close out an old year, and usher in a New one...**

1. Last year was a year of a lot of changes in our lives and the world.

2. It may have been a year of difficulty for some of you, and a year of joy for others...

There were probably some "what if's", and "why nots"???? **Elaborate What if this would have happened...**

3. Whatever it was for you, it is behind us now, and a New Year is upon us...

B. *I want to begin this Message today with Two Words for the New Year:*

**"What If"**

1. Two words that may have made you tremble last year...

2. But in the year of 2005... **Let's make them words of adventure and faith!**

### Body

A. ***What If... This Is the Year of New Beginnings for you? New beginnings for you, your loved ones, your family and neighbors?***

1. The great beginning of the early Church, was found in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost... When God poured out His Spirit...

a. And is still doing so

**b. Pentecost is not a denomination, but an experience!**

1. a. ***What If This Is the Year*** you make Jesus Christ your Lord, and stop faking it... He wants to be LORD OF ALL!

2. Lord Means: he to whom a person or thing belongs, master,

a. the possessor and disposer of a thing

1. the owner; one who has control of the person, the master

b. ***What If, This Is the Year*** you confess your sins, repent and rededicate your life to Jesus? (1 John 1:9) *9*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.)

c. ***What If, This Is the Year,*** you return to your first love Jesus Christ? (Rev.2:4- 5) *4*Nevertheless I have this

against you, that you have left your first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.)

3. **What If, This Is the Year** you stop looking back and start looking up to Jesus (Heb. 12: 2<sup>looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,)</sup>

- (v. 31)"**When they had prayed**. . . the place was shaken"

**-B. What If This Is the Year Your Prayers Are Answered?**

2. **What If This Is the Year** your children get right with God

3. **What If This Is the Year** your spouse comes to Jesus

4. **What If This Is the Year** you conquer your negative attitude and gossiping tongue?

5. **What If This Is the Year you get your bills paid**, because you decide to obey God's financial plan of giving 10% of your income, and giving offerings also?

6. **What If This Is the Year** God restores your health. . .

7. **What If This Is the Year** God restores your marriage?

- **What If This Is the Year of Revival for this Church and your Life? (v. 31, 32)**<sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

<sup>32</sup>Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common)

**You know what Revival would do????**

2. Revival would make this a place where we would assemble together and have church...**and not miss services without a just cause!**( where they were assembled together)

3. Revival would make this a **place of prayer** and not just programs...)<sup>31</sup>And when they had prayed, the place where they were **assembled together was shaken**

4. Revival would make this a year when we *are all filled with the Holy Ghost...*

5. Revival would make this a year when we *speak the word of God with boldness*

Revival would make this a year when we forgive others and forget our differences.

5. Revival would make this a year of sharing (v. 32 <sup>32</sup>Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common)

6. Revival would make this a year of giving of ourselves(our time, our talents, and **our treasure \$\$\$**)

Revival would make this a year when we won't RECEIVE AN EVIL REPORT from someone...(Get help from someone, illustration)

7. Revival would make this the year when barriers fall between us and we **become unified; not divided!**

a. racial barriers would fall

b. barriers between male and female

c. barriers of envy and strife, back biting and gossiping

\*\*\*a New Years Prayer of Mine...God smite them that cause division in the church through gossip and division...cause them to stop and repent, or remove them.

**-What If This Is the Year of Deeper Commitment to the Kingdom of God?**

*Maybe you have been living for God **half-heartedly**...but now you are going to FULLY COMMIT to Him and His will for your life.*

*What If This Is the Year you begin to read and study your Bible **regularly**?*

*What If This Is the Year you begin to **pray regularly**?*

*What If This Is the Year you begin to **fast regularly**?*

*What If This Is the Year you begin to **pay your tithes** (10%) of your income like you are supposed to, and God pours you out a Blessing you cannot contain?*

*What If This Is the Year you begin to give above your tithe sacrificially...you begin to give offerings for world missions, for evangelism, for materials the church needs!!! and God pours you out a Blessing you cannot contain?*

**I BELIEVE HE WANTS TO do it!!! Do you want to obey Him and try Him at His Word?!!!**

**What If, This is the Year of the greatest Evangelism? (v. 33)**

I. 33 And **with great power the apostles gave witness** to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

EVANGELISM-Witnessing of Jesus

2. This is one of the 5 main purposes in the church. This is the **one of the greatest areas of lack** in churches today.

Outside of people paying their tithes...Evangelism is one of the weakest areas in church...People have put it on the back burner...

**But this is the year of evangelism!!!!**

3. How long has it been since you made an effort to win a soul? To reach out, to love someone, to bring them to church, to teach them a Bible study????

4. This is The year of personal witnessing and soul winning

**Conclusion:**

**So, With all that said....**

A. *Let's Consider Two More Words: "Why Not?"*

-**Why Not...** Make this the **Year of New Beginnings for you? New beginnings for you, your loved ones, your family and neighbors?**

-**Why Not...** Make this the **Year Your Prayers Are Answered?**

-**Why Not...** Make this the **Year of Revival for this Church and your Life?**

-**Why Not...** Make this the **Year of Deeper Commitment to the Kingdom of God?**

-**Why Not...** Make this the **greatest Year of Evangelism**

*Well How???*

1. "With God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37)

2. You can Make All these good things **happen** in your life    B. *Let's Let Faith Remove all the Limits and Claim All God Wants to Give this year in 2005.*