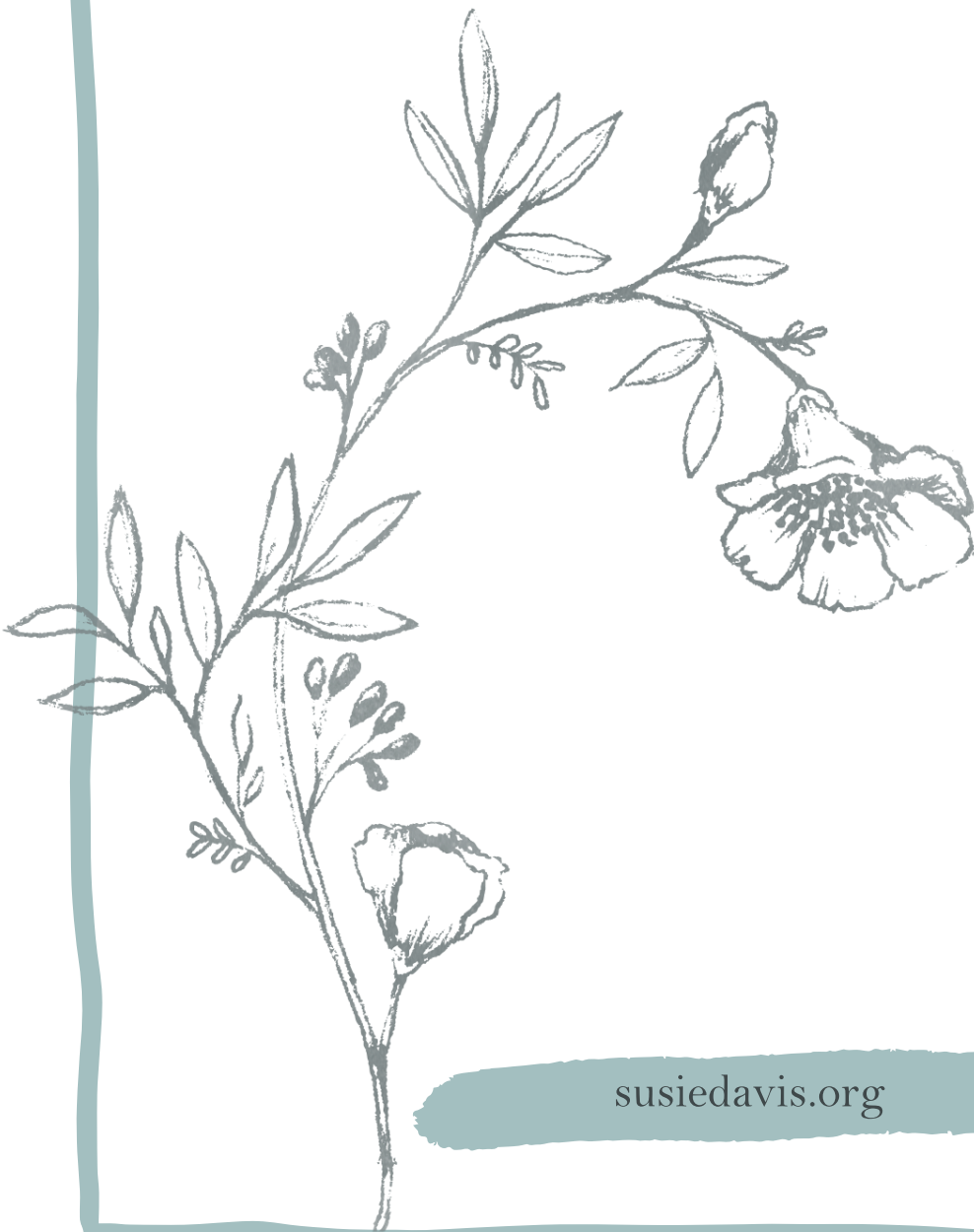


# The 2021 Goal Guide

GRACE FOR YOUR NEW YEAR



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Dear Friend,

My daughter, Emily, gave me a photo book of 2020 for Christmas. A collection of memories from my life over the past year. As I turned the pages, looking at photos it struck me that they were just so beautiful.

No doubt, we can all confess that this past year was filled with distractions and disappointments, challenges and changed plans. So much was chaotic and unknown. If there is anything I learned from 2020, it is that in order to live and enjoy the one beautiful life God has for me, I need to say “God willing.”

*Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*  
*James 4: 13-15*

It would be easy to write off 2020 as a loss but it wasn't all bad. For me, that photo book was concrete proof of joyful and beautiful moments over my last year. I was reminded again of the fluidity of the unknown and the beauty of God's generous grace therein. I wonder at how different my days would be without this concept of grace over my life ... without comfort during pain, forgiveness for mistakes, and beautiful moments when they are neither expected nor deserved. Grace changes everything.

I pray that you learn to live with open hands, that you hold expectations loosely, and say “God willing” over your days and months and years. I wrote the 2021 Goal Guide: Grace for Your New Year to help you do just that as you look back on 2020 and look ahead to 2021. Most of all, my hope is that you have grace for yourself every day of every year so that you can live and love your one beautiful life.

Much peace and love to you,

*Susie*

## LOOKING BACK AT 2020

Learning that we are not in control situates us correctly in the universe. If we are to feel at home in this world, we have to come to know that we are not steering the ship.

Richard Rohr

As you look back at 2020 as a year, recall things big and small that impacted you.  
As you track the sad and happy things, be kind to yourself.  
Use the list below to help you reflect.

SAD THINGS ...

HAPPY THINGS ...

THINGS I LEARNED ...

THINGS I NEED TO GIVE MYSELF GRACE FOR ..

## DIVE DEEPER

Write a letter to your 2020 self. What do you need to hear? What do you need to know? You can use the next page or write in your own journal.

Between here and heaven, every minute that the Christian lives will be a minute of grace.

Charles Spurgeon

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

John Newton

THREE THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND  
AS YOU DREAM AND SET GOALS  
FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR:

1. Goals should always be submitted to God.
2. Goals are secondary to God's greater purpose for you.
3. Goals are never bigger than God's amazing grace for you.

Please always provide ample grace for yourself in light of  
your goals.

Grace is the power of the Holy Spirit coming free of charge  
to enable you to do with ease what you could never do on your own with any  
amount of struggle and effort.

Joyce Meyers

Dear God,

I come to you with a certain weariness over the last year.  
An armful of grief over the hurt and confusion of 2020.  
Help me release the losses and give me grace for a fresh  
start.

As I open my new calendar, I confess I have certain ideas  
about the way things may go.  
But the last year taught me to remember to include you.  
So this year, may I always make my plans 'God-willing.'

Meet me here over the pages of my open calendar.  
I come to you with open hands and a wide-open heart  
I confess: I am yours and my days are not my own.

Time is a gift. Work is a gift. Dreaming and goal-setting  
is pure extravagance.  
Give me wisdom to redeem the time you've given me.  
Give me grace to have a grateful heart.

Amen.



WRITE YOUR OWN PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

For this new day, I give Thee humble thanks ...  
for its open doors of possibility, for its hope of new beginnings.

John Baillie

GOALS ARE THE END MEASURE OF WHAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE

PLANS ARE STEPS YOU TAKE TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

One of the most important things you can do is to identify your most important priorities first. It helps you put goals in their proper place.

MY LIFE PURPOSE IS:

.

IN LIGHT OF THAT, MY TOP 3 PRIORITIES ARE:

1.

2.

3.

Give me the grace, dear God, to adore You, for even this I cannot do for myself.

Flannery O'Connor

Now, list goals for the following categories.

And remember, you may not meet every goal you set, and that's okay too.

RELATIONAL

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SPIRITUAL

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PERSONAL

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PROFESSIONAL

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HOME

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It is by grace that you are saved, through faith, not by anything of your own,  
but by a pure gift from God, and not by anything you have achieved.

Nobody can claim credit. You are God's work of art.

Ephesians 2:8-10

MAY YOU EXPERIENCE  
GOD'S GRACE UPON GRACE  
IN THE NEW YEAR.

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