

**Change for the Better in 2017**  
**01-01-17 AM**

In 2 Chronicles 34:3-8 we read about the restoration of King Josiah. King Josiah is called the most devout king of Israel (*Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him* - 2 Kings 23:25) Perhaps this is because he understood how to accomplish a spiritual renewal. We can use his pattern to restore ourselves in the new year.

Step 1 – a commitment to the Lord. When he was 16 years old, Josiah turned to the Lord. He decided that he would live for God. We too can turn to the Lord constantly. Consider Peter’s words in 1 Peter 1:12-16 when he tells us to “*gird up your loins*”. Lets make our decision to seek God.

Step 2 – cleanse the land of idols (II Chronicles 34:1-7) – Josiah went through the land and destroyed every idol he found, beginning in the Temple. While we think that we are far removed from the idolatry of Josiah’s day, we are not. We are told to flee from idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14), and that idolatry is covetousness (Colossians 3:5).

Step 3 – restore the Temple (II Chronicles 34:8-13). Josiah then went into the Temple and cleaned it. It had been desecrated by his grandfather Manasseh, and had been derelict for decades. He took money and began to rebuild the Temple. We might think that as Christians we do not have a temple, but we do. We are the temple (1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Bible says that this Temple is desecrated by our immorality (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

Step 4– turn again to the Lord. (II Chronicles 34:14-27). When cleaning out the Temple, Josiah found the Law. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of his character is that when he found that he had not been obedient to the Law, he did not comfort himself that his previous actions had reconciled him to God; instead, he mourned his error and sought God through the prophetess Huldah. We are living sacrifices to God today (Romans 12:1-2). We need to turn to the Lord with all our lives, even after having come to Him before.

How can we grow in spirituality? By growing in grace and knowledge. Consider this description of the method by which men retain information. We can through simple actions increase our retention of information for spiritual growth:

