



Here are some examples of spiritual goals... Try a couple of these, and maybe even come up with some of your own, so that you can find comfort, be closer to Christ -- and even more effective for His kingdom.

1. **Read through the [Bible](#) in a year.** There are several good resources available to help you do this. If you've already done it, do it again, but in a different translation. (Even better, team up with a friend to do this with you and hold each other accountable).
2. **Choose a book of the Bible to study.** The next step after simply *reading* the Bible is to *study* it, go beneath the surface, uncover the truths, principles and insights in Scripture. You may want to study one book of the Bible each quarter...or one for the entire year. Try picking up the *New Inductive Study Bible* which actually teaches you how to study the Bible on your own. Make sure you regularly share with others what you are learning.
3. **Study a topic that will help you grow.** Ask yourself where you want to be in your relationship with the Lord by the end of the year and then set tangible goals for getting there. For instance, if you want to know Him better, consider a study of His names in the Old Testament and Jesus' "I am" statements in the New Testament. If you need to slow down and learn to listen for His voice, study all the Word says about "rest" or "hearing" or His "voice." If there are character traits you know you need to work on, consider an in-depth study of some or all of the fruits of the spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).
4. **Participate in a weekly small group Bible study** or lead one among your friends, neighbors, or co-workers. We can grow at a faster rate in community because we are able to share our experiences with one another and hold each other accountable.
5. **Read three books to deepen your devotional life.** Set a goal to read a book every month, every three months, or whatever is realistic for you. Also consider reading books that will challenge and convict you...that's where the growth comes.
6. **Start a weekly prayer group** with others who share similar concerns on your heart. (For example, praying with other moms for your children, praying with other wives for unsaved spouses, praying during your lunch hour with co-workers, or praying with friends or church members for a specific burden God has placed on your heart.)
7. **Start a journal to record your growth.** Start journaling your thoughts as you read the Word. How did a certain passage compel you to pray? What changes are you asking God to make in your life? What discoveries have you made about His character or His Word? Date each page. By the end of the year, you'll have a record of where God took you and what He has shown you through the past 12 months.
8. **Record your blessings and answered prayers.** Keep a "blessing book" in which you record every blessing that comes your way throughout the year, adding a prayer of thanks or praise. In addition, write out your prayer requests and record the answers as they come. By writing out these types of things, you will not only be more keenly aware of how God is working in and around your life, but you will be able to see your progress in becoming one who does "everything without complaining or arguing" ([Philippians 2:14](#)) and a person who gives thanks "in all circumstances" (First Thessalonians 5:18).
9. **Disciple a young believer.** We learn the most when we teach it to others. And seeing them grasp truth for the first time gives it a fresh impact on our lives as well. Pick up the *One-to-One Discipleship* manual from [Multiplication Ministries](#) and take a young believer through the adventure of living the Christ-directed life.
10. **Pick a 'theme verse' for the year.** Say it aloud every day. I guarantee if you do this, by the end of the year -- and probably a lot sooner -- you will have memorized that verse. And that's one more verse in the Word of God that you will have memorized during your lifetime. Choose from [Psalm 90:12](#), [Psalm 119:32](#), [Psalm 119:133](#), [Galatians 5:16](#), [Philippians 1:27](#), [Philippians 4:6-7](#), or find one of your own.