

# Greg Locke: Unlock Your Best Year Ever

Pastor Greg Locke of Global Vision Bible Church is calling for a radical shift in perspective for 2025: live your best life ever by prioritizing eternal values over temporary, earthly pursuits.

In a recent sermon, Locke reflected on the struggles of the past year, acknowledging how his church has faced trials, fought through adversity and stayed committed to fulfilling the will of God. While 2024 was a challenging year for many, Locke urged believers to view their hardships as opportunities to grow stronger in faith and to align their lives with God's eternal purposes.

Locke's message is a call to resist being consumed by distractions and materialism of the modern world. Instead, he encourages his congregation to focus on spiritual principles that lead to growing in Christlikeness and lasting fulfillment.

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To help believers navigate 2025 with purpose and clarity, Locke outlined four transformative principles for living a great year:

- 1. Forgive people that will never ask you to:** Holding onto unforgiveness only creates bitterness and hinders spiritual growth. Letting go, even when the other person hasn't sought forgiveness, frees your heart for greater peace. "You've got to learn to forgive people that do not want your forgiveness," Locke explains. "Forgiveness is a gift that you give yourself."

2. **Find yourself a secret place to spend time with God:** In a noisy, fast-paced world, carving out quiet moments to pray, reflect, and connect with God is essential for spiritual renewal. “You want the best year you’ve ever had?” asks Locke. “Find yourself a place where you can get alone with God. And by the way, find yourself a place where you can get alone with God and only God is allowed to be there with you.”
3. **Fellowship with people that encourage you:** Surround yourself with a community of believers who uplift and inspire you. Positive, godly relationships provide strength and accountability. “[Do] you want to be somebody that puts the kingdom first? Stop living your life around people that drain your battery,” says Locke. “...do not spend your life consistently fellowshiping with people that make you feel like garbage when you’re done with the conversation.”
4. **Free your heart and mind of needless distractions:** Clear away the clutter—whether mental, emotional or material—that pulls you away from your spiritual goals. Focus your energy on what truly matters. “Sometimes we just have to free ourselves from distractions. And I’m not saying that you shouldn’t have hobbies, you should have them. I’m not saying that you shouldn’t enjoy social media, it can be used correctly, and there’s nothing wrong with entertainment, nothing wrong with vacations, but when those things become the main things, something’s wrong,” Locke implores.

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Each principle represents a step toward a more meaningful life aligned with the Word of God. Locke challenges fellow

believers to embrace these practices not just as resolutions for the year but as lifestyle changes that lead to eternal rewards.

As 2025 begins, Locke's sermon serves as a powerful reminder that true fulfillment comes from living with an eternal perspective. By letting go of past hurts, prioritizing time with God, building uplifting relationships and decluttering our lives, we can experience a year marked by peace, purpose and spiritual growth. It's a message of hope and renewal for anyone ready to embrace the best life God has planned for them.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Biblical Keys to Navigating Marriage and Ministry**

Both marriage and ministry require effort and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In a recent podcast, Vlad and Lana Savchuk discussed the struggles they've encountered with blending their marriage and ministry lives, and how the Lord has graciously led them to grow together over the years.

After the two first got married, Lana experienced spiritual warfare, including attacks in her sleep. She says she was going through a cycle of attacks that made her feel unlike herself and she could not seem to get out of this cycle. Vlad

notes that during this time he also dealt with expectations that she would be involved in ministry in the certain capacity that he wanted. Despite these obstacles, the two continued to grow with each other and the Holy Spirit.

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“When she would give insights into certain decisions that I would make, into certain decisions about our personal life, that I was amazed,” says Savchuk. “She just saw things straight. And the Lord started personally dealing with my heart and said, ‘You know, there’s two people that you need to keep very close, and you need to keep very honest with; that will guarantee your protection.’”

Savchuk assumed that his uncle, his pastor, was the one that he was supposed to keep close with. However, God pointed out that this was not so.

“He says, ‘You pretty much can talk your way [out] and you can conceal things, even in your own heart from your pastor.’ He said, ‘But two people you cannot do that to: the Holy second one is your wife. She knows you through thick and thin, she spots things before...’”

Savchuk says when God started dealing with his heart, he began to shift some of the structure of the church where Lana could smoothly accept the calling on her life to disciple other women. Lana became more of her own individual, and it was within recent years that her gifts started to shine and flourish.

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Lana says her natural tendency is to run and hide away, but now she feels empowered, even challenged by the Holy Spirit and her husband to walk in the calling and purpose for her life.

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“...when the wife feels the call, and sometimes they will feel the call, if we water that, if we encourage that, not push it, you know flowers don’t grow when you pull them, they grow when you water them,” Vlad Savchuk says. “If we water that calling and encourage her to step up and to grow and to use her gifts in the Kingdom of God, if the gifts that she has and foster that, it could be a dynamic, beautiful thing.”

“We made a decision that our marriage is not our mission; we will not sacrifice our marriage for the mission, but our marriage will be on the mission, and that mission is to serve the body of Christ,” Vlad says. “Some people, they will sacrifice their marriage to fulfill the calling of God; other people will make their marriage really the calling of God, everything’s about the marriage, everything’s about them...”

Lana and Vlad’s honest account of how they’ve grown with each other over the years goes to show that the Holy Spirit desires to lead and guide couples to complement, not compete, with one another to fulfill both their individual and collective callings together.

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# Pastor Todd Mullins' Word for 2025: 'This is Your Year!'

In a world that often feels chaotic and uncertain, Pastor Todd Mullins, senior pastor of Christ Fellowship Church in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, delivered a timely message titled "This is Your Year," urging believers to embrace God's purpose and promises with renewed faith and boldness. Mullins explains that 2025 is not just another year but a God-appointed season for breakthrough and transformation.

"This is your year to step into all that God has for you," Mullins declared to the congregation. "God's plans for your life haven't changed, even if your circumstances have. You need to hold onto His promises and step out in faith."

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Drawing inspiration from the story of Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, Mullins emphasized the importance of taking action. "God told Joshua, 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go' (Josh. 1:9). That promise is not just for Joshua; it's for you too. God's presence is with you as you face the challenges ahead."

Mullins highlighted three key steps to make 2025 a year of spiritual and personal growth:

- 1. Claim God's Promises:** "There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible," Mullins reminded his audience. "But a promise is only as powerful as your willingness to believe it and act on it. Are you willing to take God at His word this year?"

- 2. Take Bold Steps of Faith:** Reflecting on the Israelites crossing the Jordan River, Mullins explained, "The waters

didn't part until the priests stepped into the river. Some of you are waiting for the waters to part, but God is waiting for you to take the first step."

3. Rely on God's Strength: "Life's challenges can feel overwhelming, but remember what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Your strength comes from Him, not your own abilities."

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The sermon also touched on the power of surrendering our will to God. "Sometimes, we're holding onto things that keep us from stepping into God's best," Mullins said. "This is your year to let go of fear, doubt and anything that's holding you back."

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Pastor Mullins closed his message with an invitation for Christians to take some time for personal reflection and commitment. "What if this year wasn't just about surviving but thriving? What if you decided to trust God fully, to walk by faith and to embrace the future He has for you? This is your year to see His faithfulness like never before."

Christians around the world can be inspired by this call to action and reassured by the reminder of God's unwavering presence. For those yearning for renewal and purpose, it is essential that we remember God's promises are steadfast, and this year could indeed be the year of transformation if we dare to believe and take that first step of faith.

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***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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# **BREAKING: Justin Trudeau to Resign as Canadian Prime Minister**

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced his resignation, telling the media that “internal battles” mean he “cannot be the best option” in the next election.

Trudeau says he has asked the president of his Liberal Party to begin the process to select a new leader. He has faced rising discontent over his leadership, and the abrupt departure of his finance minister late last year signaled growing turmoil within his government.

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Shortly before he spoke, an official familiar with the matter said Parliament will be suspended until March 24. It had been due to resume Jan. 27. The timing will allow for a Liberal Party leadership race. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about the matter publicly.

Trudeau came to power in 2015 after 10 years of Conservative Party rule, and had initially been praised for returning the country to its liberal past. But the 53-year-old leader, the son of Pierre Trudeau, one of Canada’s most famous prime ministers, became deeply unpopular with voters in recent years over a range of issues, including the soaring cost of food and housing, and surging immigration.

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The political upheaval comes at a difficult moment for Canada internationally. U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on all Canadian goods if the government does not stem what Trump calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the U.S.

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