

Morning Rundown: Before You Start 2025, Take Time to Evaluate Your Spiritual Growth

Here's a quick rundown of the top stories on :

Before You Start 2025, Take Time to Evaluate Your Spiritual Growth

When God created the heavens, the earth, the oceans, the plants and the animals, He took time to assess His creation—and according to Genesis 1, He “saw that it was good” (v. 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, NASB 1995). When He finished the job, He took a day to rest—and set in motion a rhythm of rest for all of us. God didn't need a break; He was teaching us the importance of rest and quiet trust.

This principle of Sabbath has affected the way I start a new year. When one year ends, I always take time to celebrate the highlights by looking at photos, savoring memories and writing down my best moments. I also mourn my losses. And I carefully consider how I can grow spiritually in the coming year.

We all need to take a deep breath before racing into a new year. This has become a spiritual discipline for me. I relish the memories, smell the flowers I saw on my journey and thank God for the victories. It's my way of saying, “It is good” before I rush into my next assignment.

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'Terrorist Attack': Driver Rams Truck Into New Orleans Crowd, 10 Dead

NEW ORLEANS (AP) – The suspect who drove a vehicle at high speed into a crowd of revelers in New Orleans on New Year's Day was killed after a firefight with police, law enforcement officials told the AP.

The officials were not authorized to discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

Ten people were killed and 30 were injured after the suspect rammed a vehicle at high speed into a crowd of pedestrians in New Orleans' bustling French Quarter district at 3:15 a.m. Wednesday along Bourbon Street.

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Freedom Under Fire on US College Campuses

A new survey of thousands of American college faculty yielded some shocking results on free speech and academic freedom, with nearly 3-in-10 professors stating they feel unable to speak openly over fears about how students, fellow faculty, and administrators might respond.

This is just one of the eyebrow-raising findings in "Silence in the Classroom: The 2024 FIRE Faculty Survey Report" released by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).

"While many faculty remain confident in higher education, and few report explicit threats or experiences of discipline for speech, the broader climate reflects that of rampant self-censorship, worry and fear, particularly among faculty in the political minority," the study's executive summary reads.

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