

# BE HOPEFUL



## AN ACTION PLAN FOR A RADICAL NEW YEAR

BASED ON THE BOOK, *RADICAL*, BY DAVID PLATT

### FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

- **New Year's Resolution #1: Pray.**

What will 2011 bring to the world? We don't know what stories of tragedy and war, or of achievement and nobility, will be reported. But we do know it will be a year when God is yearning for the people who do not know him to hear the good news of the gospel.

You have the privilege to be a part of what God is doing around the world by intentionally praying for unreached people groups. I recommend using a resource like *Window on the World* or Operation World. Go online to check out the Joshua Project and the Global Prayer Digest. You can keep these resources or world map or globe near your television or computer and pray when you hear stories in the news.

Pray around the world in 2011. Let God open your eyes to the world and see it as he sees it.

- **New Year's Resolution #2: Read.**

In 2011 I am urging you to commit to reading the entire Bible. We need our minds to be saturated and filled and enveloped with the Word of God. We need to know God well. Take the next year to read the Word and digest it. There are numerous resources available online and in bookstores to help you as you read.

Don't approach this merely as a task to accomplish. Pray before you begin to dive into the Word that God will use your Bible reading in 2011 to plant the truths of the gospel deep in your heart. Commit to obeying what you learn of God's will in Scripture.

- **New Year's Resolution #3: Give.**

I want to challenge you to free up as much of your resources as you can over the next year. It could be small things or big things. Set a cap on your lifestyle and give sacrificially and specifically toward urgent physical and spiritual needs around the world. The idea is to give our resources for the glory of Christ. There is no better time to begin than the first of the year.

You may have questions about how to get started or need some guidance. Here are some places to start: Attend a course put on by an organization like Crown Financial Ministries or Eternal Perspective Ministries. Or read a book about stewardship, such as *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* by Randy Alcorn. Create a budget for 2011 that puts a cap on your lifestyle and will enable you to increase your charitable giving. I want to encourage you, in the spirit of 2 Corinthians 8, to “excel in the grace of giving” during 2011.

• **New Year’s Resolution #4: Go.**

As you look ahead to the new year, you’re probably planning work schedules, vacation schedules, and school schedules. I would encourage you to dedicate a week of your year to go into another context and share the gospel.

Get out a 2011 calendar and begin to pray about when and where you could go on a short-term mission trip. Pray about this decision as a family if you will be going as a family. If you are single, consider asking a good friend to go with you. Set aside 7 days – and maybe even longer – to go on mission. Talk to a pastor or mission leader in your church to find out if your church is planning to take a trip and what you can do to be a part of it. Or consult a denominational or independent mission agency.

If you’ve never gone overseas to teach and demonstrate the gospel in a context different from your own, make 2011 the year you begin. Don’t let fears or obstacles stop you. Go.

• **New Year’s Resolution #5: Serve.**

Make 2011 the year you commit to biblical community in the local church.

- I want to challenge you to be a committed member of a local church. If you’re not a member of a local church, I would urge you to begin looking for a faith family that is engaged in spreading the gospel.
- I want to encourage to search out and find a group of people, whether that’s a small group or a Sunday School class, where you can connect with other people who you can share life with and who will walk with you in your faith journey.
- If you’re a member of a church but not serving within the church, find a place where you can get involved and serve, and if possible, serve with your small group or Sunday School class.

My prayer for you this year is that you will believe and trust in the gospel of God; that you will live and long for the glory of God. The commitments above are not just a checklist to mark off each week. The goal for 2011 is not to complete these challenges just to say that you were able to accomplish something. The goal is Christ! Our goal is to know Christ and become like Christ. We want to magnify Him and make his name great in our lives and in the nations.

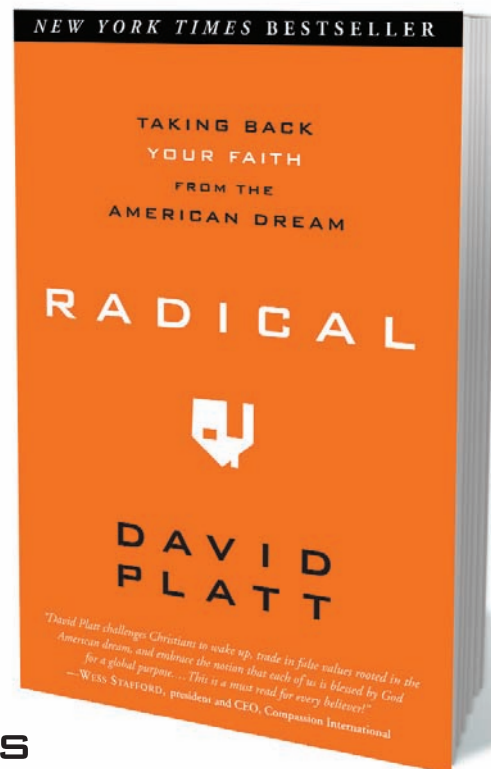
# WHAT PART OF THE GOSPEL IS OPTIONAL?

## WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?

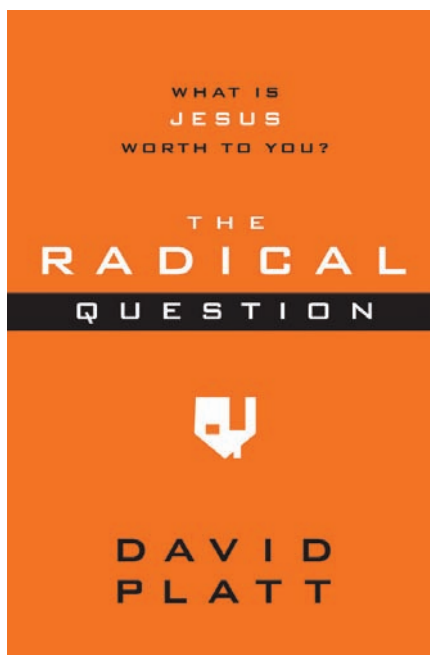
*“David Platt challenges Christians to wake up, trade in false values rooted in the American Dream, and embrace the notion that each of us is blessed by God for a global purpose... This is a must-read for every believer!”*

—WESS STAFFORD, President and CEO, Compassion International

*Radical* is a daring call for Christians to believe and obey the gospel according to Jesus—even if it flies in the face of success according to the American church. David Platt reveals what can happen when we exchange our convenient beliefs for authentic discipleship.



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