

21 THINGS I KNOW ABOUT 2021



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There is nothing I absolutely know about the coming year. But, based on reasonable evidence, I can safely predict a few things. I will vow to try new recipes but will likely revert to the faithful few that have sustained us thus far. I will drink far too much coffee and not nearly enough water.

Rather than waste my time (and yours) speculating, I have chosen to spend my morning guiding my mind to what is absolutely true rather than guessing about what may or may not come to be.

1. We will suffer, but God cares enough about human suffering to share in it and to ultimately undo it (**Isaiah 53:3-5**).
2. I will hurt and disappoint those I love the most, but hope in God will not be disappointed (**Romans 5:3-5**).
3. We will be shocked and surprised by events outside our control, but said events have passed through the scarred hands of a loving savior before they came to be.
4. My boys will continue to grow (spiritually, physically, emotionally, relationally) and experience all the growing pains that come with it. But Jesus himself did the same and faithfully walked through their stages of life. As such, they have a pioneer partner in him.
5. Some days I will feel close to God but other days I will feel numb to his nearness. Either way, it is in Him that I live and move and have my being (Acts 17:). He is closer than close in the third person of the trinity.
6. Though I intend to do good, I will be bent back toward self (in *curvatus en se* and **Romans 7**). Yet my savior straightens me day by day, realigning me to His image.
7. During waves of shame from sins and wrongs done by me and to me), I will try to isolate myself. But the Lord will draw me with cords of love and through my own desperation to the care of the body of Christ. When we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship with him.
8. The brokenness within and without will buffet and blunt me, but God's word will shape and sharpen me (**Psalm 19**).
9. The path to life will sometimes feel like death but I will trust the facts of the creator rather than my own feelings. There is a way that seems right to man but in the end it leads to death.

10. Habits will shape me far more than the seemingly huge decisions I will face this year.
11. Though the church visible will falter, the church invisible will not fail.
12. I will slip into seeing the world through lenses of scarcity and skepticism but those lenses do not change the super abundance of his steadfast love. (**Psalm 130:7**)
13. Though the church visible will falter, the church invisible will not fail (**Matthew 16:18**).
14. As much as I try to maintain the illusion of control, I am not in control. But I serve the God who is the blessed Controller of all things (**1 Timothy 6:13-16**).
15. I will do ridiculous amounts of laundry, but even those small chores can be done as worship unto the King of Kings (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).
16. In the midst of mundane days, there will be luminous moments when kairos breaks into chronos. I will never know when to expect these moments, but I will treasure them as gifts when they do.
17. I will run after lesser lovers. But, like Hosea pursued Gomer, God will pursue me, even using pain to point me back to Him, my true lover (**Hosea 2:6-7**).
18. I will jealously look upon your posts and feeds, but God will wrestle me back to my green pastures and hold me at my still waters (**Psalm 23: 1-2**).
19. I will exhaustedly collapse into my Sabbath time with Jesus weekly. Yet, somehow, He will revive and refresh me, sending me back out into good works He has prepared for me (**Exodus 20: 8-11 and Acts 3:19-21**).
20. People who know and love me will lovingly call me out on my sin. I will initially be defensive, but God will remind me that true love mixes grace with truth (**John 1:17 and Galatians 6:1-5**).
21. Amid all the changes and curves which are heading our way this next trip around the sun, Jesus Christ will be the same yesterday, today, and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**).

May we trust an unknown future to a known God as we begin a new year!