









For me, I fondly associate the time between November through early January with taking inventory. My dad owned an auto parts business, and during that time, merchandise inventory was taken. Last year, he sold the business and retired. Over the years he owned the company, he regularly hired me to take inventory. I found it satisfying. I am probably the only one waxing nostalgic about inventory. My dad claims that I was the most diligent of all. My patience, persistence, and attention to detail made me well-suited for the task. All that to say, taking inventory is essential for an accurate assessment.

There has been such a flurry of life and ministry over the last few months that it is difficult to give you an accurate account of all that took place. Sometimes, we didn't even remember to take pictures. There has been a lot of good, and we are thankful for what God is doing in our hospitality house community. There has also been a lot of fun: the Normandy trip, Christmas markets, gingerbread decorating, movie outings, group games, and countless other connections that our community has initiated on their own. Our community clearly shares ownership, and during a recent Friday night review of our values, they used a lot of "we" language.

There has been much significance and growth in our community, too. Rebecca and I had the honor of doing a Bible study through the Gospel of Mark with a younger couple. During that time, we were able to celebrate the husband's conversion and baptism. Along those lines, we have recently had a handful of people who are responsive to God and hungry to grow. Many from our community have joined our family in doing a Bible-in-a-year reading plan, some doing so for the first time. As I write this, I am joyfully anticipating our testimony night, which we do quarterly to keep us paying attention to and ready to share what God is doing in our lives.

As I take inventory of the last few months, I see that it was a busy season, but it was so much more. What a rich season I overlooked amidst the busyness! Besides the obstacle of busyness, we all face discouragement and disappointment, which can skew our assessment of things. We had those, too, and I am repeatedly reminded of the role of joy during growth opportunities. I encourage you to take inventory and choose joy. Thank you for supporting us through the regular ups and downs of life and ministry. Also, it is an honor to share in your life as well. We would love to hear a bit of your inventory. We cherish praying for and rejoicing with you.

While this accounting may not have been as thorough as my past auto parts inventories, I pray it gives you a glimpse of the ministry you share in and glorifies God for what He is doing. Let me leave us with a good verse to reflect on amidst personal inventorying:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality." (Romans 12:9–13)

Much love and God bless, Deric Sneller (on behalf of the Snellers)



















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