

New Beginnings in a New Year **- Ron Stullenbarger -**

A new year marks a new beginning: a time for the children of God to recommit themselves in the love of the Father. God loves to use new seasons to remind us of His desire to continually make us new. From winter to spring we see that which appeared dead burst forth into beautiful arrays of God's glorious work. And God longs for the same fresh start in our lives as He does for His creation. He longs to make things new as the New Year begins.

Lamentations 3:22-24 says, *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"* We have hope in the steadfast love of God. His powerful love can make new all that needs restoration. God's heart desire is to free you from that which weighs you down and robs you of the abundant life Jesus came to bring you.

With this year coming to a close and a New Year approaching, it's time for us to gain perspective on that which needs rebirth. Whatever sin has entangled you this year does not have to gain victory over you in the next. Whatever lie you've believed that's wrecked your emotions, thoughts, and actions does not have to win the battle over your mind next year. Whatever wound or disappointment that has hurt you can be healed and reborn to empower you for that which is to come.

God's desire is to meet you where you are today. He longs to meet you at your greatest point of weakness and pain and wrap you up in His love. He longs for you to know He is with you, for you, and will walk with you into newness of life. *"His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning"* (Lamentations 3:22-23). God has limitless, powerful grace for you today. Run to Him with your sin. Run to Him with your failures and struggles. Run to Him with the pain of others' words that He might speak His healing truth over you.

Your heavenly Father loves you and is for you. He has new beginnings in store for you. But just as a tree needs fresh sunlight, warmth, and rain to bear fruit again, you need the refreshing rain of God's grace and the warmth of His steadfast love to be made new. You can't do it on your own. You weren't made to do it on your own. All you need for a new beginning is wholly available in the arms of your loving Father. Open up your heart to him today and receive the newness of life he paid the highest price to give. With His Spirit dwelling in you, you can be victorious!