



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

New Year's is a great time to think about "new" things. We typically flip-open a new calendar, reminisce about the past year, and make New Year's resolutions. In many ways, the promise of a new year is the hope-filled potential of a new and improved start. Thankfully, with regard to the true believer, the Bible speaks a lot about newness. As you look to the excitement and challenges of a new year, let me encourage you to meditate on these Scriptural truths regarding God's blessing of new things:

- ♦ God has given all believers a new heart and a new spirit: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"* (Ezekiel 36:26).
- ♦ The infinite newness of our Lord's love and mercy: *"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. ²³They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness"* (Lamentations 3:22-23; cf. 1Pet.1:3-4).
- ♦ Christ's establishment of the new covenant of grace: *"In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'"* (Luke 22:20; cf. 1Cor.11:25).
- ♦ The new life given to believers through the death and resurrection of Christ: *"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life"* (Romans 6:4).
- ♦ In Christ all believers are a new creation: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- ♦ Through God's great mercy believers have been born anew into a living eternal hope: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you"* (1 Peter 1:3-4).
- ♦ The guaranteed promise of a new heaven and a new earth: *"But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness"* (2 Peter 3:13; cf. Rev.21:1-5).
- ♦ To those who persevere, God promises to give a divinely personalized new eternal name: *"To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it"* (Revelation 2:17).

What are we to do with all these amazing blessings of spiritual newness? Simply put, we are given a new life in order to live that new life! Through Christ we are enabled and exhorted to live a new life: *"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness"* (Eph.4:21-24; cf. Col.3:9-10).

Praise the Lord, for with this new life comes new loves, new desires, new joys, and a new purpose for living!

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David
(1/5/26)

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #1):

Genesis 1-3; Joshua 1-5; Psalm 1-2; Job 1-2; Isaiah 1-6; Matthew 1-2; Romans 1-2

Recommended Reading:

"Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life" by Donald S. Whitney