

New Beginnings In Christ!

Ask These Questions:

1. What are the 3 most important resolutions you made this month?
2. In years past how effective have your resolutions been? How many weeks or months before you realized you "fell off the wagon" of your resolutions?

Introduction: A new beginning means an old ending! It means that you are leaving something behind to something new! We see this in the transitions of life, where we leave infancy and move into childhood, from childhood to adolescence, from adolescence to adulthood and then there are various transitions in our life through out our adult years where we become wiser, more mature, or more mellow!

The believer comes to Christ and He is immediately a new creation! So that Paul promises that if you are in Christ you are a new creature, with new ways and new thoughts! And this newness is a continual walk, where I look at my life in Christ and I see myself growing, becoming a better man, father, husband, employee (employer), friend!

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Transformation in the Christian life is something that is to happen regularly so that every few encounters with Christ and the Spirit brings you to something new and fresh and exciting! Most Christians or most people who call themselves Christians have long stretches without a new fresh encounter with God! And this ought not be!

Question: How have you seen your life change over the past year?

Has it been a result of resolutions? Or has it been a result of consistent obedience to God in every area of your life? Because new beginnings for the Christian is about a new life in Christ and it is always a call to obedience! It is also a call to Service!

Here's this Devotion's Thought – No More Resolutions! Just Be Obedient

Because New Life in Christ Is A Call To Obedience!

A New Beginning For Israel! Deuteronomy 30:15-19

When Israel was leaving the wilderness they were facing a new beginning – Life in God's Promise Land! Moses' last farewell was the admonition to Obey God! Their new life was a Call to Obedience. Notice the word!

Deuteronomy 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and adversity; 16 in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the LORD your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it. 17 But if your heart turns away and you will not obey, but are drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall surely perish. You shall not prolong your days in the land where you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess it. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,

Romans 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. NAS

Have you chosen life by being obedient to the Lord? Or have you chosen life by being disobedient? Disobedience hinders life changing encounters with God! When we are disobedient we choose death! Perhaps the normal Christian life has eluded you because you along the way have been disobedient to the Lord!

- Christians struggle in Marriages because they have been disobedient to the word concerning marriage!
- Christians struggle in Finances because they have been disobedient to the word concerning finances!
- Christians struggle emotionally because they have been disobedient to the word concerning trust and faith!
- Christians struggle in their lives because they have been disobedient to the word concerning their giftedness!
- Christians struggle with guilt because they have been disobedient to the word concerning temptation and sin.

Jesus said in Luke 9:23 "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Denying Self Means I will be Obedient in every area of Life! Denying Self and Being Obedient will mean!

1. No Addictions,
2. No Overweight problems!
3. No Adultery whether it is mental or actual adultery!
4. Integrity, Honesty!
5. Finances will be in order because you will be a good steward, giving what you are to give and being careful what you spend your money on!
6. Your language whether it be vile, coarse, critical or just plain silly will be given to words that only edify!

It means No mate will cheat, no accountant will steal, no addictions will ever occur, no murder committed! Self Denial wipes out Adulterers, Thieves, Drunkards, Murderers!

Have you been Obedient to the Lord?

What area of your life has been the most difficult to walk in obedience?

What area would like for your group to pray for you in the area of obedience to the ways of the Lord?

What area do you need to practice Self Denial?

Prayer: Lord thank you for new beginnings! We agree that our call as Christians is a call to obedience! Lord, help us be men of the word! To be obedient in every area of our lives! To walk after you with all of our hearts, so that we may truly be the men you have called us to be - Men who are obedient as sons of God, as husbands, as dads and as men of the community and church. We need your grace to obey! So today we choose not to make resolutions! We choose to be obedient! Thank you for this New Year! Thank you for this new life! In Jesus Name, Amen