

In the New Year, I will Renew!¹ Lamentations 3:22-24

Introduction:

The prophet Jeremiah found hope in the LORD writing, “The LORD’S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I have hope in Him’” (Lamentations 3:22-24).

The basis for Jeremiah’s renewed hope was God’s love and unfailing compassions.

Amid disappointment and discouragement, maybe even depression, the poet had deep faith in the faithfulness or trustworthiness of God.

There is no greater hope than knowing that God is totally reliable.

We may not realize the faithfulness of God until our lives fall apart and we realize then that all we have is Yahweh—Jehovah—the LORD.

Yet, when we realize that we always have the LORD, we gain the understanding that His compassions and lovingkindnesses are fresh and new every day.

Each sunrise gives fresh hope in mercy & love!

Thus, each precious day God gives me, I will RENEW!

I. I will renew my MIND!

Because of who God is and what He has done for us, we are ethically obligated to follow His instruction.

We are instructed in Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

We have been taught by the teaching about Christ to “lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that [we] be **renewed** in the spirit of [our] mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:21-24).

Only the Christian faith has the ultimate moral authority and effective power to transform human life according to God’s intention.

As Christians, we are called upon to make a decisive dedication of ourselves to God.

We continue that dedication by doing two things.

Number one, not allow the world to squeeze us into its mold for living.

Number two, be transformed by the renewing of [our] mind, which reorients our heart on the issues of life that are of lasting importance and enables us to approve what God has in mind for His people.

God’s will is “good and pleasing, and perfect.”

The will of God brings about moral and spiritual growth.

The will of God develops an expression of His nature in us.

The will of God cannot be improved upon because it is perfect.

In obedience to the will of God, one gets rid of his past character, which manifested itself in the old way of life, and puts on the new self, characterized by righteousness (doing what is right according to God’s standard) and holiness (personally dedicated to God).

¹ Mark Posey, “It’s a New Year, I will RENEW!,” Pulpit Preview, Vol. 11. No. 14, December 31, 2021

Intellectual and spiritual reformation or transformation must be continual so that we live right in relation to others (righteousness) and are dedicated to God (holiness).

In the new year, I will renew my mind for moral and spiritual growth, to better express God to others, and to be more dedicated to God.

II. I will renew my KNOWLEDGE!

Paul directed the brethren in Colossi that believers have put off immorality and idolatry, anger, malice, slander, filthy language, and lying.

The prohibition, “do not lie to one another,” was enforceable on two considerations: One, they had put off the old self with its evil practices/actions/deeds. Two, they had put on the new self.

Now, the new self is “being **renewed** to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created Him” (Colossians 3:10).

God is constantly renewing this new being in His own image.

The renewal process has as its goal the complete restoration of the creature in the likeness or image of the Creator.

God is actively renewing the Christian to be what he was created to be or what he was before sin.

The task of the believer is to develop actions/deeds/practices in accord with the new self.

The goal is knowledge gained progressively through Christ that allows Christians to grow in the image of the Creator, becoming like God by being like Christ.

In the new year, I will renew my knowledge to grow more like God by being like Christ.

III. I will renew my SOUL!

A year can be a long time, we get tired of new things pretty quickly, and we start wanting another fresh start.

Paul boldly spoke the gospel despite many afflictions that could have worn on him.

He said, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8 and 9).

Paul shared in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus would be seen in him.

While living in constant threat of death, Paul did so without reservation, because his observers could see Jesus in him.

But living quietly for Jesus was not enough, Paul continued to preach knowing that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will raise him and us also to present us with Christ.

Assured of this future blessing and promise, Paul thus concluded for him and Timothy, “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being **renewed** day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16).

The physical side of man is the one that gets tired, wants a fresh start, and is breaking down and wearing out.

The spirit side of man, if given to Christ, is being renewed day by day. Their outlook made the difference.

The afflictions Paul and Timothy faced were momentary and light.

They were “producing (though)...an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

Evaluating things from a fleshly perspective could and would bring weariness.

Evaluating things from a significance perspective allowed transformation and preparation for resurrection life through God’s power.

In the new year, I will renew my soul by fixing and keeping my focus on that which is spiritual and eternal.

IV. I will renew my STRENGTH!

In a time when Israel was concerned about afflictions and had forgotten some amazing attributes of God, the people concluded that God did not know or care about them.

Yet, God who is the Everlasting, the LORD, and the Creator of the ends of the earth said He would renew their strength if they would humbly depend on Him.

Isaiah proclaimed God’s promise to the people of Israel, “He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the LORD **Will gain new strength** (most other translations say “**renew their strength**”); They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary” (Isaiah 40:29-31).

With God’s help, His people can endure trials.

He gives extra strength to those who realize God’s strength is needed.

The key to tapping into God’s strength is finding hope in the LORD.

This hope is active dependence on God that waits for His timing with confident expectation.

The strength received will be like the strength seen in the soaring wings of an eagle and legs that do not get tired or become weary.

“When trials and doubts arise, the people of God today must return to the foundation of their faith, the character of God that is revealed in Scripture. It pictures a great God who is worthy of trust.”²

Human forces of every kind have limited power, so God should be feared and trusted because He sets them up and in a short time they will fall.

The people of God should put their hope in the powerful God of heaven and earth who will greatly strengthen all those who trust in Him.

In the new year, I will renew my strength by humbly depending on God whom I trust.

V. I will renew my SPIRIT!

David pleaded for complete spiritual renewal when you wrote, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, And **renew** a steadfast spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

Create in me a clean heart.

Rather than ask God to purify or cleanse his heart, David requested that God **create** in him a clean heart.

Bring into existence in me a pure heart, free from moral impurity.

Renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Renew a steadfast/a firm/an upright/a loyal spirit in me.

² Gary Smith, [*Isaiah 40-66*](#), vol. 15B, The New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2009), 123.

Restore the loyal attitude/will/desire within me or reestablish a constant devotion to God.

David longed for his entire mental and moral nature to be renovated by God.

In the new year, I will renew my spirit by asking God to give me single-minded, wholehearted devotion to Him accompanied by a loyal spirit.

Application:

We too can find hope in the LORD!

In this new year, I will renew these things:

I will renew my mind by studying the moral and spiritual truths found in The Good Book, learning how to live better for God and how to better teach others, and being more dedicated to God with my time, energy, resources, and goals.

I will renew my knowledge by examining closely the nature and characteristics of God and His Son, then imitate them (Ephesians 5:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:6).

I will renew my soul by focusing on things that are spiritual and eternal.

I will renew my strength by humbly depending on God and trusting Him.

I will renew my spirit by asking God to newly create in me a heart that is free from impurity along with a renewed spirit that will faithfully follow Him.

What I am in essence doing is renewing my commitment to the Lord.

Conclusion:

“There is strength in the name of the Lord;

There is pow’r in the name of the Lord;

There is hope in the name of the LORD!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!”³

To the saints, find “steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 1:1-4) by renewing these vital things, starting right now.

To the sinner, you can become a saint, find hope, and be right with Jesus by listening to Jesus (Luke 10:16), believing in Jesus (John 11:25), repenting of your sin (Mark 1:15), confessing Jesus (Matthew 10:32), being baptized into Jesus (Mark 16:16), and living faithfully to Jesus (Galatians 2:20).

³ “In the Name of the Lord” words and music by Phill McHugh, Gloria Gaither, Sandi Patti Helvering, arr. R.F. Douglas

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