

WHAT DOES THE NEW YEAR HOLD FOR YOU?

#185, December 29, 2024



This depends entirely upon what you bring to the New Year!



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

The mercies of God are renewed every day, and renew our strength like the eagle's. His tender mercies are over all His works! What a wonderful hope-filled scripture! How I love it! I have claimed this verse a lot in my life, especially in the last few years. (Lamentations 3:22-23! Psalm 145:9)

God has been so merciful to me. I am completely unworthy of His Grace and Love, and Kindness to myself, and my loved ones and ministry! It is simply this, that the mercy of God is renewed to each one of us every day!

We may have messed up yesterday, but when we wake up the next morning (today), as believers, saved by God's grace, we have our grace and mercy from God renewed! That is what this verse is saying!

Lets' get ready for this wonderful new year.



We know all around us there are terrible wars, problems, financial meltdown, and other spiritual battles of the mind and body. These things are only increasing as you will know yourself. **This is not a time to be weak, in Spirit.** If you are weak in body, please let us know or ask your friends relatives to tell us and we will pray for you.

Let me begin with a couple of verses of encouragement:

For He has said I will never leave you nor forsake you.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us for all our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

So what will you bring to the New Year?

Of course, the Lord would like for us to sincerely work on our sins and bad habits, but Grace is still there and His Mercy is still there. **You should though, if you truly love Jesus Christ, 'work on' these habits and so forth, which truly displease the Lord;** but that is entirely up to you. Your greater blessings in this life from God, depend upon what you are willing to do about that. We all have besetting sins, so there is no shame in expressing your sins and asking for prayer, especially now as the New Year begins.

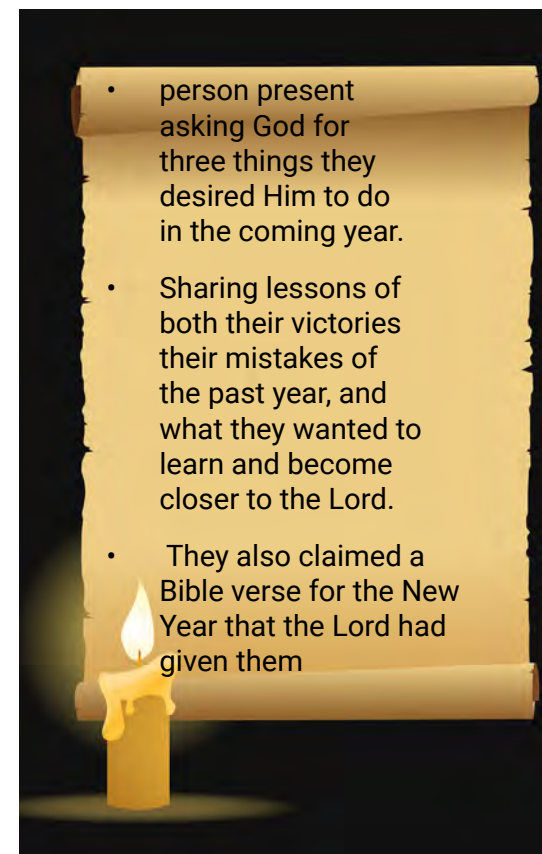
If you have no one to express

or confess your sins to, please email us and we will, without any condemnation, pray for you, as we also our sinners before the Lord. Please use this dedicated email. wcf@nym.hush.com

A suggested New Year's celebration!

In my missionary life we often celebrated the entrance of the New Year by having a communion with our church and fellow missionaries. Later usually between 10:30 to midnight we had a time of singing thanksgiving and praise and a reading of the Word, then we followed that by each

- person present asking God for three things they desired Him to do in the coming year.
- Sharing lessons of both their victories their mistakes of the past year, and what they wanted to learn and become closer to the Lord.
- They also claimed a Bible verse for the New Year that the Lord had given them



This was usually a time of very honest and sincere sharing of our hearts, which we all looked forward to greatly. Sometimes I was in such meetings with 50 people, and sometimes with just a half dozen, depending on where we were in the world. Our children also usually participated at an age-appropriate event in the afternoon, asking the Lord to bless their new year. And sing a few action or praise songs to Him!

In this way, we 'got ready for the next year', so that when it dawned the following day, we knew we had celebrated this beginning WITH THE LORD. It was a strengthening feeling!

I understand that it's not possible for all Christians to do this, but the main point is that in some way, whether you only read this note from us, on December 31st or January 1st, I encourage you to ask the Lord to forgive you for sins, worship Him yourself by even simple Words of Love and praise to Him. The Lord is well pleased with all this. **You can do this even as one person, that is only you! Because God is not limited by many or by few! 1 Samuel 14:6**

May The Lord bless us with a great new year as we love Him.

Here are a variety of verses mostly in a couple of psalms, I feel these are very helpful to encourage our faith as we start the New Year, unknown to us, but already known to the Lord.

34 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me

from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a

contrite spirit.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Psalms 37: 3-8

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Psalms 57

Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.

3 He shall send from heaven,
and save me from the reproach
of him that would swallow me
up. Selah. God shall send forth
his mercy and his truth.

7 My heart is fixed, O God, my
heart is fixed: I will sing and
give praise.

10 For thy mercy is great unto

the heavens, and thy truth
unto the clouds.

11 Be thou exalted, O God,
above the heavens: let thy glory
be above all the earth.

In summary.

- Trust more in His Word.
- Confess any sins and mistakes of this last year to the Lord.

- Acknowledge Him to guide you for the coming year.
- Let some of the verses above be an anchor for us as we step into 2025.

Until The New Year next week,
God willing,
Jerry for the WCF TEAM

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace

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