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Rev. Dr. Orlando Yates, Pastor

Reflect, and Prepare – A New Year Devotional

"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.'"

Lamentations 3:22-24 (ESV)

As a year comes to a close, it's vital that we take time to both reflect on what God has done and allow him to prepare us for what's to come. A new year marks a fresh opportunity to center our lives on the goodness of God. A new year marks a new beginning: a time for the children of God to reground 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.

We have hope in the steadfast love of God. His powerful love can make new all that needs restoration. God's heart 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 fast approaching, it's time for us to gain per - spective 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 heart 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 you into newness of life. 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. **AMEN**

https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/new-year-devotionals/new-year-devotional-january-3.html

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 –

