

The New Year- A Gift of God

Time moves on like an ever-rolling stream, a blessing from God which unwraps new life constantly. As we enter the new year, it is the hope and prayer of this writer that you find the world of the spiritual, the place where God lives and works his marvelous grace.

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us about time. It was many years before God gave me the ability to spell Ecclesiastes.

A Time for Everything

3 There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Bill Vaughn puts it this way. “An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.” So which one are you? How do others look at you? And what new things are you looking forward to in this new year?

Take the time to examine each day for its blessings. Don't waste the precious time God has given us, for once it is past we cannot get it back. Time machines on television, in literary works, and on television have tried, but we cannot travel back in time except in our heads.

“Life goes by so very fast, my dears, and taking the time to reflect, even once a year, slows things down. We zoom past so many seconds, minutes, hours, killing them with the frantic way we live that it's important we take at least this

one collective sigh and stop, take stock, and acknowledge our place in time before diving back into the melee. Midnight on New Year's Eve is a unique kind of magic where, just for a moment, the past and the future exist at once in the present. Whether we're aware of it or not, as we countdown together to it, we're sharing the burden of our history and committing to the promise of tomorrow." – **Hillary DePiano**

Whether this is read just before New Year's Eve or just after, or at any time in the year, perhaps God will lead us to treat time a little better than we did in the past year.

One way is to take the advice of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the great writer, who entreats us to "write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." This is a great tool to make the best of every day, to find the wonder in it, and make it possible never to miss the blessings of God in that day.

Don't be afraid to fail. If we never fail, we have never attempted the impossible. And God does the impossible every day.

"I hope," writes Neil Gaiman, "that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something."

The absolute best thing we can do in the new year is to encounter the God we have been running from our entire lives. Take a leap of faith, and begin this year of wonder by believing. By believing in and walking with the God who can make the new year better than we ever thought it would be. The way to know if God has done this in you, is if people begin to say to you, "where's the person I used to know? I like this one better."

"I have no way of knowing how people really feel, but the vast majority of those I meet couldn't be nicer. Every once in a while someone barks at me. My New Year's resolution is not to bark back." - Tucker Carlson

Start the year with a clean slate, rather than carry all the old, useless baggage which weighs us down and keeps us from growth and faith. Remember the old magic slate, when we drew on it and erased it all by pulling up the plastic cover?

Country singer Brad Paisley says, "Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."

I agree. Don't you?