

He is the God of New Things:

“Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:18ff NKJV

New Creation:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:16 NKJV

New Song:

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvelous things... Psalms 98:1-2 NKJV

New & Old incompatible:

Then Jesus gave them this illustration: “No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn’t even match the old garment. “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.” Luke 5:36-39 NLT

- Let's not go into 2017 being people who say "the old is just fine."

PURSUE THE NEW

➤ To pursue the new in 2017, of all the things that God has for us, we need to do 3 things

1. Desire - to embrace the new things God desires to do in your life this year.

- Whatever you desire, you'll gravitate towards. So desire the work of God in your life.

I hope this message sparks desire in you to want new things from God.

2. Decision - Choice to involve God in your year & a decision to embrace change.

- There is power in decision. Gave us the power of choice. I can desire all I want, but without a decision, desire is worthless.

- Jesus said take up your cross daily and follow him.

- I'll give an opportunity for you to make a decision today.

3. Discipline

- This is the ongoing work - who knows there are 364 days left in this year!
- Paul said "I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." 1 Cor. 9:27
- It takes work to live as a disciple of Christ
 - The great preacher John Wesley taught the principle of conjunctive grace. The idea that your growth in God is not all about Him, and it's not all about you, but it is a synergy between Him and you in your life.

5 BUILDING BLOCKS FOR 2017

Ps. 37

v1 Don't Worry

Fret = to worry unnecessarily or excessively; to be agitated or irritated.

Scripturally here it means = to make yourself angry, anxious, to vex your soul

- This is a matter of focus.
- There will be a lot of things in 2017 to cause worry and anxiety in your life – the stock market, politics, the price of fuel, the icecaps melting, the endangered animals, etc.
- You can be so distracted with the state of the world and how other people are doing wrong that it paralyses you from doing right. It grabs your attention and shifts your focus from being proactive to critical and fearful.

1 Tim. 6:6 "Now godliness with contentment is great gain."

- Don't be an un-contented Christian – Godly but not contented.

Ps. 37:8 "Do not fret – it only causes harm. v9 For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth."

v3 Trust in the Lord

- Cast your cares on the Lord (hurl like a javelin). Cease from worry.

Phil. 4:6 "Be anxious for nothing"

Train your mind to pass your cares onto God.

1 Peter 1:13 "Gird up the loins of your mind"

- Loins: The section between your hips and your ribs - a bit larger after Christmas dinner
- Gathering up long robes with a belt to be ready for action.
 - Prior to this verse, Peter has been addressing the presence of trials (v6) and the place of your faith (v7), but now he addresses the importance that our minds play. To rest our hope fully upon the grace of God.

"Trust is a good gear to have in your gearbox" Phil Pringle

Faith can be about believing and hoping for something, but when prayers are not answered what do you do? You can go into reverse and pull away from God, or you can slip into neutral and trust God.

Prov. 3:5-6 - "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge (submit to) him, and he will make your paths straight - straight paths as opposed to crooked or winding paths.

- God promises new strength for those who trust in Him

Isaiah 40:31 NLT

"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

I mean, we simply cannot run our lives into the ground and think that trusting God means we get supernatural strength to fix our inability to prioritise. There have been times where God graciously infuses me with strength when I have depleted my resources.

But what if this verse was more about trusting God to lead me? What if I trusted God when He is telling me to slow down, or make a different decision, or walk away from a situation that will leave me depleted? Will I trust God here too?

New strength could mean a new way of doing life in 2017. It could mean a new of trusting in 2017.

v4 Delight yourself in the Lord

- He is a good God and he wants you to delight in Him.

- Don't serve God out of obligation, but let it be out of the overflow of a grateful heart.

- Smile and love the things of God.

- Too many Christians say "well God is in my heart", but you can't see any outward expression of joy...they look like they need to send missionaries to their face!

- God is magnificent

Ps. 1

- If your delight is in God, your desires will be right and God loves to generously give his people good things.

- God wants to help you achieve what is in your heart!

v5 Commit your way to the Lord

- Roll off onto – "Open up before God, keep nothing back;"

- Let God be involved in your life

- Cast your cares upon Him, for he cares for you!

- Let him be both your Saviour and your Lord

Saviour: To save you out of things

Lord: To lead you into things – this takes obedience

- "He shall bring it to pass" - he will give you strategy and plans along the way - along your way!

Prov. 16:3 "Commit your works to the Lord, And your thoughts will be established"

works: activity, business, actions.

established: prepared, secure, stable, ready for accomplishment.

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The very first thing you must do is be born again...to commit you life to Jesus and allow God to have priority in your life.

v7 Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him

- Rest and wait

- you can wait patiently or impatiently

- While your waiting, cope with the inconvenience, the unresolved and the delay. Have a sweet spirit and smile.

We live in such an instant society...we want everything now.

- Learn to rest in God and wait for Him

"When we're waiting for something and we get impatient, what we're saying is - the thing is more important to me than the journey getting there, or the God who's going to give it to me!"

Say "Lord I'm going to rest in you"

- When you rest you re-create - you Re...Create - you become creative again.

- Thoughts, inspiration, creativity flows, strategy comes, fresh vision, etc.

Ps. 27:14 "Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart..."

- Not that he'll provide the answer quicker...no He'll strengthen your heart and help you be courageous in the journey..

Trust, Delight, Commit your way, and Rest in the Lord.

To pursue the new in 2017 we need – to Desire it, to make a Decision, to Discipline ourselves in the journey.