

God, I Need a New Year

IDEAS:

1. New Year – New Decade (Do you remember what you were doing 10 years ago? Preparations for Y2K, Party like it's 1999.
2. Watching the television as the ball drops in New York City ushering in a new year. There is something good and exciting about a new year. We never celebrate the old; we always celebrate the new. Where did that come from?
3. Calendar; fresh set of 12 months. What are we going to do with our new year? Does turning the page of a calendar or watching a ball drop or buying a new Day-Timer, Day-Minder, whatever, really make anything new?
4. Song; new attitude.

Again, we don't celebrate the old, we celebrate the new. We have a fixation with new. We love new things, new products, new chances, new opportunities and new years. Where did that come from? It came from God. God is a god of the new.

NEW

Psalm 40:3 (NIV) *He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.*

Isaiah 42:9 (NIV) *See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.*

Isaiah 42:19 (NIV) *Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the LORD ?*

Isaiah 48:6 (NIV) *You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? "From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you."*

Jeremiah 31:22 (NIV) *How long will you wander, O unfaithful daughter? The LORD will create a new thing on earth—a woman will surround a man.*

Jeremiah 31:31 (NIV) *The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.*

Lamentations 3:19-24 (NIV) *I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."*

Ezekiel 11:19 (NIV) *I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.*

Ezekiel 18:31 (NIV) *Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?*

Matthew 13:52 (NIV) *He said to them, "Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."*

Mark 1:27 (NIV) *The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."*

Luke 22:20 (NIV) *In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

John 13:34 (NIV) *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

Acts 5:20 (NIV) *Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."*

Romans 6:4 (NIV) *We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*

Romans 7:6 (NIV) *But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.*

1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV) *In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

Ephesians 4:23-24 (NIV) *...to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Colossians 3:10 (NIV) *...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Hebrews 8:13 (NIV) *By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.*

Hebrews 9:10 (NIV) *They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.*

Hebrews 10:20 (NIV) *...by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.*

1 Peter 2:2 (NIV) *Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.*

2 Peter 3:13 (NIV) *But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.*

Revelation 21:1 (NIV) *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.*

Revelation 21:5 (NIV) *He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

RENEW

Psalms 51:10 (NIV) *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalms 103:5 (NIV) *...who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV) *...but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Habakkuk 3:2 (NIV) *LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.*

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

WHAT ARE SOME NEW THINGS WE DESIRE?

(Flip chart?)

New things without a new attitude/spirit are worthless.
(New Year + Old You = Same Ol', Same Ol')

If that were not so, then when sin entered into the picture, God would have just created a new earth and put us into it to make us new, but instead newness comes from an internal work.

This world and your world can be renewed only one person and one attitude at a time.

Let's talk about attitude for a little bit. (On flip chart, list different kinds of attitudes.) If someone were going to describe you, which one of these descriptors would they place before your attitude? How important or how powerful are attitudes/spirits/outlook? What can it do in a:

- Marriage
- Company
- Friendship
- Small group
- Ministry
-

Is it possible for your attitude and my attitude to be changed/made new? Not only is it possible, it's commanded.

Ephesians 4:17-32 (NIV) *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

²⁰You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. ²¹Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶"In your anger do not sin"^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³²Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

1. Put off old self
2. Be made new in the attitude of your mind
3. Put on the new self

We're talking about what the Bible calls renewal; being made new from the inside out. Whose job is that? Mine! So how? What renews you? What renews us?

1. Solitude
2. Prayer
3. The Word of God
4. Friends
5. Exercise

6. Helpful books/reading
7. Rest
8. Music
9. Good diet
10. Nature, fun, new routines
11. Actions, decisions and important things that we put off (relationships, finances, sins, temptations, organization, areas of self control...)

Isaiah 30:15 (NIV) *This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.*

Philippians 4:8 (NIV) *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

EPHESIANS 4:25 & FOLLOWING

- Be only truthful in what you say
- No sin when angry
- Take care of relational matters quickly
- Work honestly; produce so you can share
- Speak only for the benefit of others
- Don't grieve the Holy Spirit
- Get rid of baggage
- Get all over the good stuff