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And He who sits on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things
new.” And He said, “Write, for these
words are faithful and true.”

Revelation 21:5



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Ctrl+Alt+Del - (Rebooting Life)

Remember back when our older computers would constantly freeze and lock up on us and we would have to press three buttons simultaneously that were positioned so awkwardly on the keyboard you really needed two hands or longer fingers to reach them? “CTRL-ALT-DEL” Many days I sat at my cheap old computer feverishly typing away and my computer froze at that critical moment when I typed at least 5 or 6 paragraphs. You could hear wailing and gnashing of teeth because I had to press the CTRL-ALT-DEL buttons and I would lose everything I just worked on, but it was the only way to get the computer to restart.

Let me give you a little rundown of the CTRL-ALT-DEL buttons and how they relate to our walk with Christ.

Computers have pretty much become a necessity, not a luxury anymore. Ctrl-Alt-Del are keys found on almost every computer keyboard, except Macs. They’re different; they don’t have an ALT key, only Command. *Just like Apple to command we accept what they give us!* 😊

These keys are called ironically “function” keys; keys that are used as quick ways or shortcuts to perform tasks or functions on the computer. They make using it quicker and easier. These particular keys, when used together, will restart your computer from scratch; it will shut it down and then “re-boot” it all over again.

If your computer freezes and you can’t get it to work correctly...press *CTRL-ALT-DEL*.

If your computer runs slow and gets stuck...press *CTRL-ALT-DEL*.

If you’re going down the wrong path, your life is a complete mess, you’re circling the drain...press *CTRL-ALT-DEL*.

Oh, but wait...my mistake, we don’t have those function keys in real life. Or do we?

Actually, God has provided us with the KEYS to start afresh.



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Ctrl+Alt+Del - (Rebooting Life) *Continued*

We need to let God take **CONTROL** of our lives; we need to find an **ALTERNATIVE** to the current destructive lifestyle we lead and **DELETE** the things in our lives that causes us to walk away from God.

HOW DO WE TAKE CONTROL OF OUR LIVES?

THIS IS THE BEAUTY IN ALL THIS...WE DON'T! We shouldn't be in control of our lives at all, that's God's place. We give the reins to God and let His Spirit corral us in and tame us into His likeness. We were already in control of our lives, which is exactly why we're pounding on those function keys so hard trying to re-boot and re-start our lives in the first place. We messed everything up, we've put ourselves in a jam that we can't get out of without some help!

GIVING GOD TOTAL CONTROL BEGINS WHEN WE

Wholeheartedly **BELIEVE** (*AC 4:12*) Jesus is who He says He is (*God's One and Only Son*) and then verbally **CONFESS** (*ROM 10:9, 1 JN 1:9*) with your mouth that you're no longer in the driver's seat. That God now has complete control of each and every step of your life.

REPENT (*AC 3:19*) of the life you once lived that was once in total opposition to the life God desires us to live. This means not only to be sorry for our shameful life of sin but also and more importantly, to have a transformed thinking process about what sin is and to no longer desire those sinful things that we once enjoyed and desired.

Finalize the deal by being **BAPTIZED** (*1 PET 3:21*). Nothing says final (complete) quite like a funeral. By submitting to Christian Baptism, we are completely washed clean of **each** and **every** sin we have ever committed up until this point in our lives.

TALK ABOUT THE ULTIMATE CTRL-ALT-DEL!

This all means that you have committed, by confession, that you agree to allow God to direct you in *His* will, not your own. It also means that you agree to follow His direction wholeheartedly and with joy. Let me type that again...with JOY! What's the point in relinquishing control when you're going to have an attitude about it? This begins your covenant relationship with God.

HOW CAN WE CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE PATHS FOR OUR LIVES?

Pressing that first function key of **CONTROL** is your first step. You can't have a life reboot or restart without that KEY that serves a vital FUNCTION. The control must be given to the One that already knows your past, present, and future. A life decision has to be made. It has to be on purpose, to have a life driven by purpose. Not a life that lives for the moment or that makes life choices based on a roll of the dice. We only have one life to live, so why not trust it to the One that gave you that life in the first place?

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Ctrl+Alt+Del - (Rebooting Life) *Continued*

You have to press the **ALT** key, which is short for ALTERNATIVE. Because the ALT key on a keyboard when pressed at the same time as another key, gives the other key an alternative function. How many times have we cried out to God that we desperately needed an alternative to the path that WE have chosen for ourselves? If only we had a fresh start, a new beginning we would have a fighting chance to do things the right way!

Whatever path you have chosen for your life – no matter how long ago you’ve chosen that path – no matter how much of a dead end that path leads to...there is an alternative! There is another way...

”Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” John 14:6

There IS an Alternative and that is Jesus Christ!

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO DELETE THE NEGATIVE IN OUR LIVES?

Delete that spirit of bad habits. Delete that spirit of negative thoughts. Delete that spirit of toxic relationships. Delete that spirit of esteeming yourself to higher or lower than we should. Delete that spirit of jealousy. Delete that spirit of saying I CAN’T and start believing and trusting what God has declared to you, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”* Philippians 4:13

The re-boot process simply cannot work unless you press that 3rd function key. We all know there is significance in the number of three and so it is fitting that all three-function keys *must* be pressed in order for God to re-boot your life.

All of the giving of CONTROL to God and pursuing an ALTERNATIVE to a toxic path in life means nothing if you don’t press DELETE and send all that garbage to the Trash bin...and then DELETE it from there again to make sure it’s purged from your mind, body & soul.

HOW DO YOU BEGIN THAT CRITICAL ALL LIFE SYSTEMS RE-BOOT?

Get In The Word...And Stay There!

God’s Word is our Owner’s Manual. His powerful and proven Word shows us what will happen when we place God in CONTROL...look at Esther who had NO control over her circumstances of being taken by force to the King’s palace, but she gave control of her destiny to God and look how He was able to work through her. His powerful and proven Word shows us when He gave an ALTERNATIVE to a destructive path...look at Saul (later named Paul) who based his life on the teachings of persecuting and killing Christians wherever he found them. God literally changed his path on the road to Damascus and now Paul is considered one of the most important figures in the apostolic age. Not because of his killings of Christians but because of his evangelism of spreading to the known world, the same Christianity he once held malice for. His proven and powerful Word shows us when God DELETED our sins on the cross through His son Jesus Christ by His redeeming blood.

Remember when I touched on Apple computers not having that ALT key, but Command buttons... don’t forget to apply those too. The re-boot process also calls for us to obey the COMMANDS our Father gave us in his Word...we all remember what happened to Adam & Eve when they didn’t obey that Command. We remember what happened to Moses and God’s people in the desert who were disobedient, or the Words Christ spoke to the seven churches in Revelation. Obedience is the path that we must keep on to ensure our walk with Christ stays clear of stumbling blocks.

~Aaron Jones

New Beginnings

For several years my daughter worked in a childcare center. The name of the center was Bright Beginnings. The staff there cared for toddlers and young pre-school children. It was a Christian based learning center.

The facility was named Bright Beginnings for a reason. The founders wanted to provide an environment for children in their formative years which would provide basic life learning experiences. And, in addition to that they wanted to provide teaching from a Christian perspective.

They were, of course, able to achieve those goals. Many children, over the years, were provided with instruction on Christian values. Some of those children were not exposed to Christian training at home, but they received that training while in the childcare center. We can only hope that they were able to relay that training even to their parents or other caregivers.

As we approach the end of another year of life, and prepare to begin another new year, it is a time of reflecting on the events of the year past. For some, great positive things happened in their lives. For others, heart ache and tragedy may have occurred. So, we all have experiences to look back on. Hopefully, these experiences have caused us to grow in different ways. Sadly, for some, however, the negative experiences have hardened their hearts toward other people or toward their outlook on life. For them, the new year is far from a time of new beginnings. It is, to their thinking, more of the same disappointment and heart ache.

Because we know that our Lord desires new beginnings for us in this life, we can rest assured that He will provide those for us. But, in order for us to receive those blessings of new beginnings, we must trust Him for His promises. Now, of course we know that God never promises us that after we become Christians every day will be better than the day before. But, as we live the Christian life day by day, we can see Him working in our lives. And this is where so many folks miss out. They may expect God to always provide their wants, never thinking about what is best for them. And that is what God thinks about - what is best for Each individual.

As we begin a new year -2023 - it is my prayer that we listen and hear the words of the Psalmist as he writes these words:

“How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek him with all their heart. They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways. You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently. Oh, that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes! Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Your commandments. I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart when I learn Your righteous judgments. I shall keep Your statutes. Do not forsake me utterly!” – Psalm 119:1-8

So, our goals for 2023 should be, as in any year, to remain faithful to our God. Keep His precepts. Seek His counsel in every situation. And, understand that when situations arise and the outcome is not what we want or expect, to know that God is still in control, and that He sees further into our future and our needs than we could ever see.

~Gary K Fair

THOUGH
NO ONE CAN
GO BACK &
MAKE A BRAND
NEW START,
ANYONE CAN START
FROM NOW &
MAKE A BRAND
NEW ENDING.



All Things New

When God saves us, we gain a new beginning, a new family, a new purpose, and a new power...

A New Beginning (Justification)

One of the reasons people celebrate the beginning of a new year is because it promises a clean slate. That's why we make New Year's resolutions, out of our desire to start over. Sadly, though, most of the resolutions we make on January 1st are long abandoned by the middle of February.

But God promises that *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

That is, when we trust in Christ, God gives us a permanent fresh start, an everlasting new beginning, regardless of what we've done or who we've been. Our deep desire to "begin again" is satisfied once and for all, because of what Christ has done for us on the cross.

A New Family (Adoption)

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, (Ephesians 2:19)"

Paul said. In other words, when God adopts us, we not only gain a Father, we gain a whole new family: the Church. The biblical word for "church" does not mean a building or institution, it means "the called out ones." It refers to those whom God calls out of slavery and into sonship. The Church, in other words, is people: people adopted by God, people who know God as their heavenly Father. When God saves sinners he saves them into a whole new community — **the "family of God."** As Frank Colquhoun wrote in his book *Total Christianity*, "When Christ saves a man, he not only saves him from his sin, he saves him from his solitude." He brings us into meaningful fellowship with others who will help us along the way in our relationship with God.

A New Purpose (Mission)

Paul wrote, *"Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we do it all to the glory of God"* (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)

When God saves us, we no longer have to settle for manufacturing our own fleeting legacies. He gives us a new reason to live—to glorify him. We live, in other words, for something huge and significant — to display God, to spread his fame, and to build his everlasting Kingdom. We become part of an infinitely larger story than our own personal history. We no longer have to work for our own puny causes, but for God's universal cause. Paul said, *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (**Ephesians 2:10**).

In his book *Orthodoxy*, **G. K. Chesterton** wrote, "How much larger your life would be if your self could become smaller in it." Nothing makes you more aware of your smallness and life's potential bigness than being in relationship with the Living God. God promises a big purposeful life to everyone who knows him.



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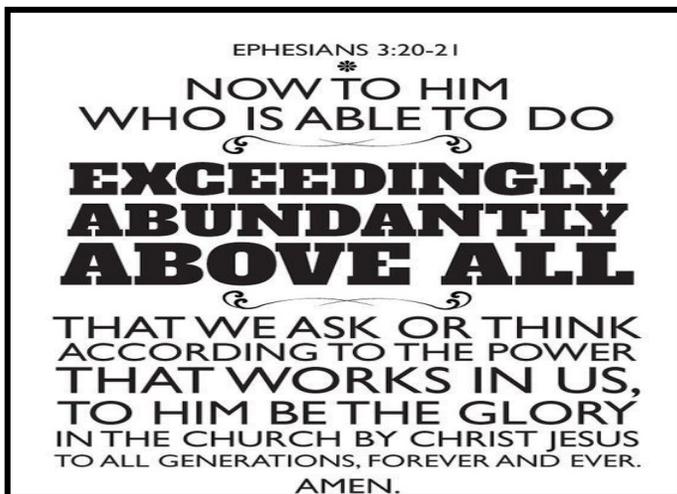
All Things New - Continued**A New Power (Sanctification)**

When God enters into an everlasting relationship with us, he not only promises to pardon us for the past, he promises us a new power for the present. Just before Jesus ascended back into heaven after his resurrection, he told his disciples, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you*” (**Acts 1:8**).

Most of us know we’re imperfect and need to change. Most of us want to live better lives. But no matter how hard we try, we cannot. We don’t have the power to change.

But God does. In *The Contemporary Christian*, John Stott writes, “Is God really able to change human nature ... to make cruel people kind, selfish people unselfish, immoral people self-controlled, and sour people sweet? Is he able to take people who are dead to spiritual reality, and make them alive in Christ? **Yes, he really is!**” And when God’s Holy Spirit enters us, we receive all the power we need to become the people God always intended for us to be. The Bible makes it clear that in Christ, God provides us with everything we need for godliness.

C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*: “God became man to turn creatures into sons: not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. It is not like teaching a horse to jump better and better but like turning a horse into a winged creature.”



New, unimaginable changes await all God’s children because God promises a new, unimaginable power.

Because God has given us a new beginning, a new family, a new purpose, and a new power, let us celebrate true newness today. And in doing so we will point a watching world to the only One who can “**make all things new.**”

And, that brings us to a theme that I want to get us to think about right now; it’s the theme of fresh starts and new beginnings. Now, this is one of those overarching themes in Proverbs. You really don’t understand the Proverbs unless you understand this; it’s not there in a single passage or in a single chapter; it’s not apparent on the surface, but it’s what the Proverbs is about.

Think with me. The book of Proverbs is an invitation by a God of grace to abandon the old foolish ways of sin and a welcome to fresh starts and new beginnings. When I say that, I think again, “Isn’t this the narrative of the Bible?” Abraham doubted God’s promise and took life into his own hands, but was given a fresh start and new beginnings. David committed adultery and murder but was given a fresh start and new beginnings. Jonah ran from God—was given a fresh start and a new beginning. Peter denied Christ—given a fresh start and new beginnings. Paul persecuted the church—given a fresh start and new beginnings. And each one of us are offered that fresh start and new beginnings. We’re meant to look into the mirror of the Proverbs and say, “I’m not what I should be and not walk away hopeless, but walk away with hope because the God of wisdom is also a God of grace. So, I want to talk about your approach to Proverbs with four words.

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All Things New - Continued

The first one is **'consider.'** You ought to look in the mirror of the Proverbs and consider who you are, consider what you're doing, consider how you're acting. Humbly look at the sightedness that the Proverbs gives you.

The second word is then, **'confess.'** Don't deny what you see, don't rise to your own defense; confess what God shows you through this wonderful mirror of His Word.

Third word, now **'commit'** yourself to a brand-new way of living. When you confess your sin, God never will mock you, He's never disgusted, He never will turn His back, but He meets you with His grace. But His grace is not just for giving grace; it's empowering grace. And so, commit yourself to a new way of living. Say, "I'm going to live the wisdom of the Proverbs." Now, you don't have any ability to do that at all, but you're not left to your own resources because God is for you and with you and in you.

The fourth word is **'change.'** There's an old saying in counseling circles that change hasn't taken place until change has taken place. Commitment is a step of change, but it's not change--change is when you now apply those new commitments to the situations and relationships of everyday life.

How should Proverbs inform the way you think? The way you think about money, the way you think about relationships, with the way you think about sex, the way you think about your talk, the way you think about justice or generosity or all those other things that are in Proverbs? Commit yourself to actual practical change. The God of wisdom is also a God of grace, and He welcomes you to look into the mirror of His Word, to confess what you see; He greets you with forgiveness, and He greets you with empowering grace. Proverbs is an invitation to fresh starts and new beginnings, or it makes no sense at all in its place in the Word of God!

~Robin Fortner



Forever New

Everyone loves something that is new. The feel on our skin when we lay down on a bed with crisp new sheets, how our feet feel when we put on a new pair of tennis shoes, how we look and feel in a new outfit or when we breathe in the smell of a brand new car. Certain new things we've had in our lives are deeply imbedded in our memories so much so that when we think about them it can seemingly transport us back to the particular time when we received them. As for me, it is the smell of a new Rubber Dolly I received as a very young child one Christmas morning. For my husband it's the smell of a new Lassie Billfold he got in the mail that his mother had sent away for using Campbell's soup labels.

Oh, wouldn't it be nice if everything could stay new forever? Unfortunately, with material things, gradually over time the new wears off and they become just ordinary things that no longer excite us. That is why Jesus counsels us in *Matt 6:19 to not store up for ourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin can destroy*. All of our "stuff" we work so hard to acquire is only temporary.

God is Eternal and eternal things never alter, they are always new. God will never be less than He is right now or will ever be any different than He has already revealed Himself to be in the past. God says of Himself in *Malachi 3:6, "I am the LORD; I change not"* Even when we face difficult times, everyday God renews His grace and compassion in every situation we face. *"They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-24)* Indeed, we are *"outwardly wasting away but inwardly we are being renewed day by day."* (*2 Corinthians 4: 16-17*)

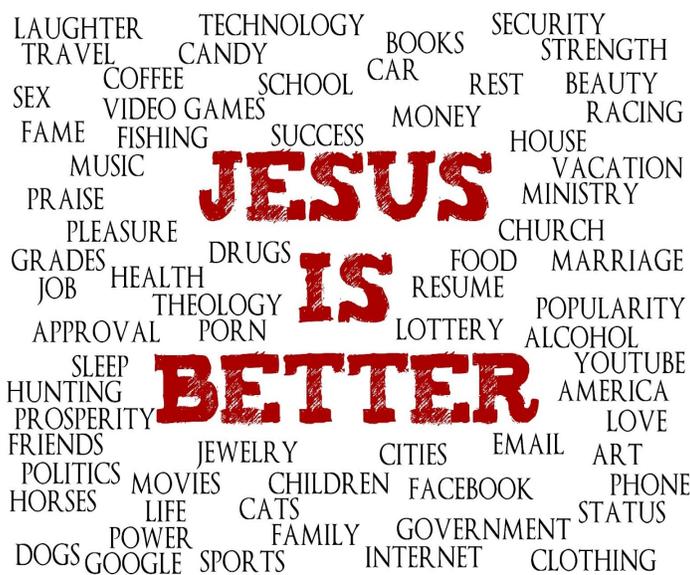
Truth is, if you have been baptized into Christ you are new. *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!... (2 Corinthians 5:17)* We are a new creation with a new spirit and a new heart, which was promised in *Ezekiel 36:26* which says, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you ; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."*

Becoming a new creation in Christ doesn't mean we become incapable of doing anything wrong but it does imply that we have a new nature and power given to us by God through the Holy Spirit. The second we are saved we are given a new nature, a new life in Christ. The Holy Spirit of God comes to indwell within our body to teach and to train us, to guard and guide us. By yielding our new self to the Holy Spirit He works in us and transforms that new life into the image and likeness of Jesus.

The Bible gives us scriptures to show how this is accomplished. *Colossians 3:10 And I have put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Ephesians 4:22-24 Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

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Only God can make all things new with a real kind of new that lasts forever because *Isaiah 40:28* says, *"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.*

James 1:17 says that *He is the Father of heavenly light and that with Him there is no change or variation. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him.*

Forever New- Continued

Romans 12:1-5 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what the will of God is, what is good, acceptable and perfect.

In sharp contrast with the old self, the Christian is a new creation and should live differently. Paul tells us the new self is constantly refreshed through knowledge of the one who created it, namely; Christ. As Christians, our conduct should reflect the new life. Inwardly the new nature is being renewed day by day as we come into a deeper and more intimate knowledge of Jesus. This renewal is only achieved by reading God's word because God's word is eternal, it endures forever and that makes it a reflection of God Himself. (1 Peter 1:25) God has bound Himself to His word and His promises (Heb 6:17-19). We can have great confidence and trust in the Bible to give us the best guidance because it is authoritative and forever new.

God has given us all that we need for that new life to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus, but we must do it God's way, not man's way. It cannot be done by reforming, refining, or repairing the old nature through self-effort as many people do, especially at the beginning of a new year.

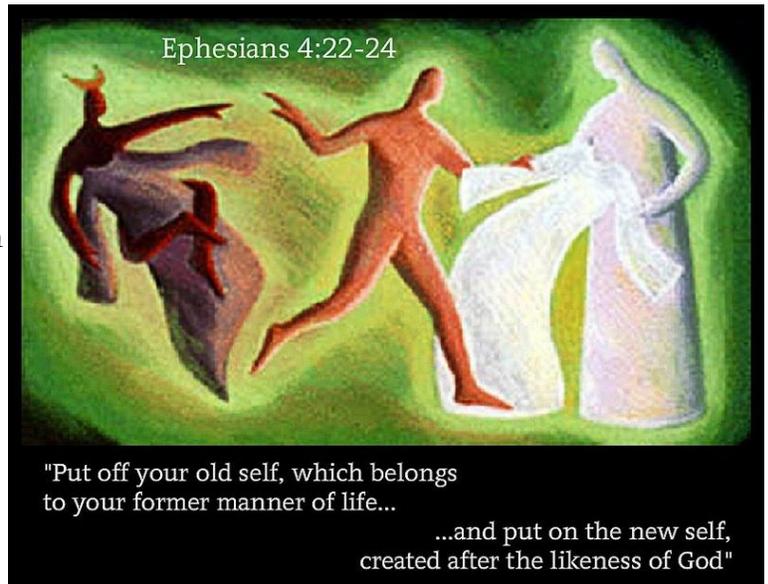
The "old man" or old nature we inherited from Adam is dead in trespasses and sin. It can't be reformed or trained into Godly righteousness. Trying to reform through self-effort produces self-righteousness and this is unacceptable to God. *Isaiah 64:6* says this type of hypocritical righteousness is as filthy rags or polluted garments. We must be clothed in the righteousness of Christ and not seek to cover ourselves in self-righteousness.

Philippians 1:10-11 says we are to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. The Spirit carries out these righteous works as we submit to Him. Through our submission, we spiritually grow and mature, producing fruits of the Spirit. God's purpose and plan is that the new creation that started at our rebirth will mature and grow more and more Christ-like.

I have learned that it is vital to submit to the Holy Spirit and embrace the new things God is continually doing and prepare for the new things ahead.

Isaiah 43:18-19 says "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" When God is doing something new in us it sometimes requires us to step into the unknown. This may feel uncomfortable and scary but we need to learn to let go of the old and trust what God is doing or we will miss out on all good things God wants to do in us and through us. I am trying to let go of my will, my plans and step into His because God's plans are exceedingly, and abundantly better than anything imaginable.

We serve a God who is a God of new beginnings.



Revelations 21:5 says, *He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."* Every moment brings about a new beginning and the chance for a new start. God has made and is making all things new- this includes you and me. Ultimately, everything God has done will be presented as His Masterpiece in the New Heaven and New Earth. The never changing God with His thoroughly renewed people will live eternally in his new creation. – Maranatha!

~Angela Jones

Better Than New

I love history. I'm sure that if my high school history teacher was still living he would die from laughter at that statement. But I really do love history and believe historical things should be restored and preserved and handed down for future generations. I especially love old architecture.

The bible is a historical document. It documents the entirety of not only human history but of the universe itself. It documents man's creation, his fall, the devastating effects of sin and ultimately our restoration. In this article, I would like us to take a brief look at each of these events beginning with creation.

The Beginning

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night,

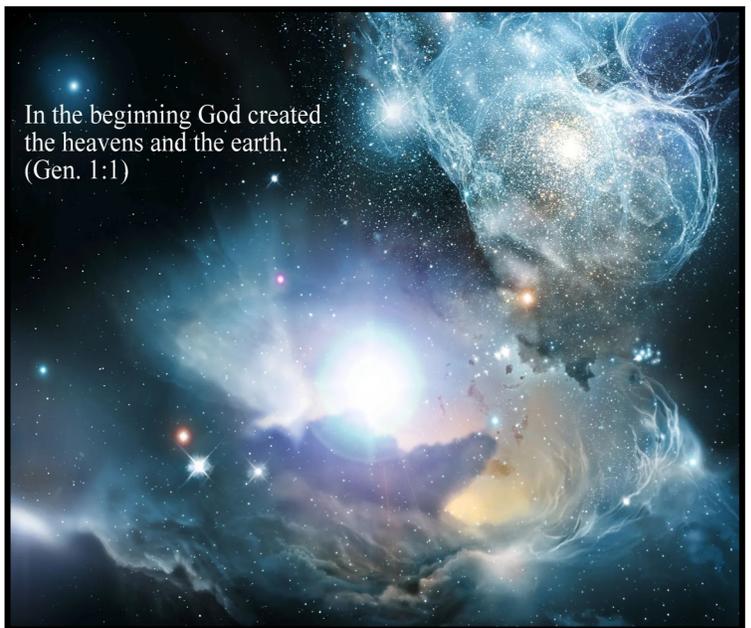
and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,] and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

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In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gen. 1:1)

Better Than New- Continued

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:1-28

Ex Nihilo, out of nothing. God spoke and in six days the entire universe came into existence. And the zenith of creation was mankind, created in God's own image to rule over creation. Unfortunately we humans are prone to being deceived and sometimes we get downright too big for our britches.

The Fall

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Genesis 3:1-13

Sometimes I wonder why God didn't put a woodshed in the Garden of Eden. Our Father lovingly puts rules in place for our own good but we think we know better, we want to be our own God. And then there we are, caught red handed, broken, naked and ashamed with no place to hide. Sometimes I wonder why God puts up with us. We are arrogant, prideful and like to glory in ourselves.

Six thousand years have passed since creation and we haven't changed a bit.



In 1855 and grand resort named the Mile Lick Inn was built in West Baden Indiana, it was later renamed the West Baden Springs. In June of 1901 it was destroyed by fire. Owner Lee Sinclair envisioned a new "Indestructible" resort that would become known as the 8th Wonder of The World. Mr Sinclair contacted architect Harrison Albright to design his dream. A team of 500 craftsmen labored for 11 months and in June 1902 the 8th Wonder of the World opened for business. The West Baden Springs atrium was topped by a 200 ft self supporting dome (the largest in the world at that time) and the massive fireplace could accommodate 14 ft logs. Lee Sinclair died in 1916 leaving the grand hotel to his daughter who got into financial trouble and sold the hotel to Ed Ballard in 1923 for \$1,000,000. After the stock market crashed in 1929 the hotel emptied almost overnight. Ballard closed the hotel in June 1932 just 30 years after it open and two years later sold it to a group of Jesuit monks. Who capped off the hot springs and operated it as a seminary until 1964.

~Continued On Page 12

Better Than New- Continued

Capping of the hot springs caused extensive damage to the foundation and in 1991 the building began to collapse. In 1994 the property was purchased by an investment firm and the Cook Family of Bloomington Indiana donated heavily to it's preservation and restoration. In 2006 the West Baden Springs reopened better than new. Not only was it preserved but it had all new modern plumbing and electrical and HVAC without altering Lee Sinclair's vision. It was better than new.

Our lives are just like that grand old hotel. We were conceived in the womb in sinless perfection. But because sin entered the world so did physical and spiritual deterioration and death. We stumble into sin and our lives begin to deteriorate, the longer we live in sin the more damage is done and the harder it is to walk away. But God has a plan for our restoration.

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:45-49

God sent his one and only son to earth. He lived a sinless life and suffered and died for our sins. And on the day of Pentecost just as Jesus promised the apostles were clothed with power from on high and Peter stood up and announced the terms of admission to the new covenant.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

When we repent of our sins and were baptized into Christ's death we contact His blood than cleanses us from all sin restoring our relationship with our Father.

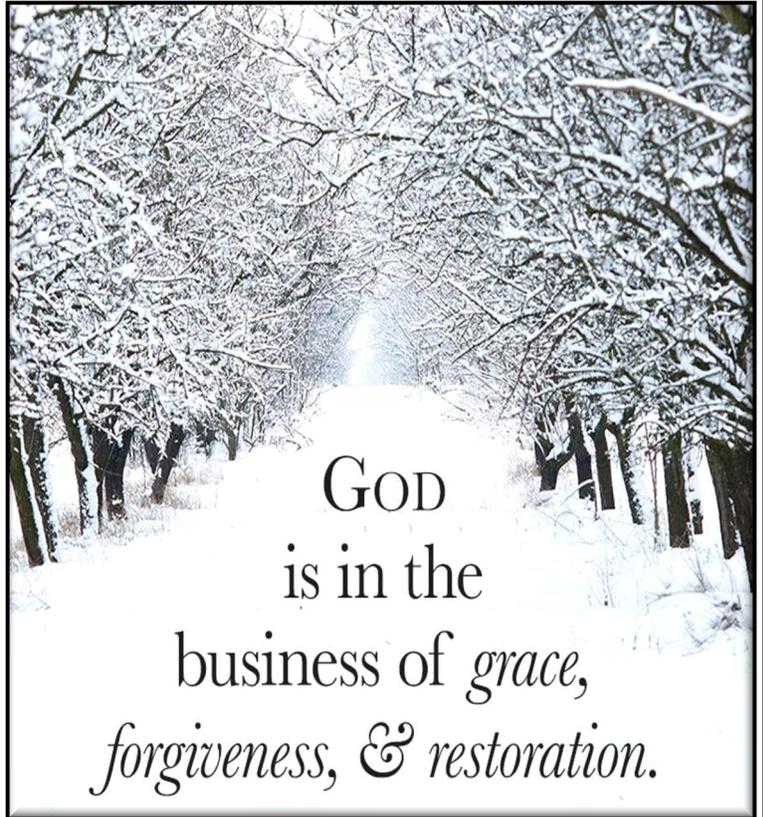
But wait there's more !!!

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

2 Peter 3:10

When Jesus returns the beautifully restored West Baden Springs hotel, designed to be fireproof, will be destroyed by fire along with the whole earth. And those outside of Christ will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity.

But those of us in Christ that have been spiritually restored to God will be made better than new.

**The Resurrection Body**

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.

1 Corinthians 15:35-38

~Ron Smith

Jumpstart to New Beginnings

Our Service Times

Sunday School - 9:30 am Study of Genesis

Morning Worship - 10:30 pm

Sunday Prayer Meeting - 5:30 pm A Special Time of Prayer

Sunday Evening Worship - 6:00 pm Written in Red Series

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 6:00 pm Study of the Holy Spirit (His Nature and Work)

Monthly Special Events

.. FRIENDS & FAMILY .. SUNDAY

Held Every First Sunday Of The Month

We encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us in worship. Excellent time for visitors to feel comfortable attending as they will most likely will not be only new faces there, thus not felling singled out.



Serving Our Savior
Women's Ministry Group

S.O.S Women's Ministry

Meets Every First Tuesday Of The Month at 6 PM
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

- Meal and or Snacks Provided



WatchMen Men's Ministry

Meets Every Second Saturday Of The Month at 8 AM
At Church Fellowship Area (*Handicap Accessible*)

- (*Manly Sized*) Breakfast Provided



The Princeton PathFinder

New Beginnings / All Things New

January
2023

Our Desire For Your Life Is Too...



Get In

Being in fellowship and being regular in attendance for your encouragement and edification of others.

Grow Up

Being in discipleship and having a growing relationship with Jesus and His word.
Having daily devotions and connecting through small group study times.

Give Back

Being a good steward, giving of your time, talents and resources.

GO Out

Being the Hands and Feet of Christ. This is where we share the gospel of Christ with our neighbors and the world.



219 N. Gibson St.

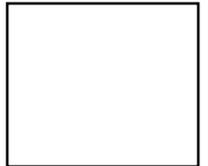
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