

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

What this verse really means - “**If anyone is in Christ**”

This isn’t about church attendance, moral improvement, or religious effort

It’s about **union**. To be **in Christ** means your life is now wrapped up in His, His death, His resurrection, His righteousness

Salvation isn’t **behavior modification**. It’s relocation, from Adam lineage to Christ lineage

“**He is a new creation**” not a **repaired** version, not a **cleaned-up** edition, A new creation

God doesn’t renovate the old heart; He replaces it

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now defines your identity

This is **not self-help**, this is resurrection

“**Old things have passed away**” notice the tense—it’s **already done**

- The old guilt no longer defines you
- The old identity no longer owns you
- The old condemnation no longer has authority

Your past may still echo, but it no longer rules

“**Behold, all things have become new**” “**Behold**” means pay attention. Don’t miss this

New desires, new direction, new hope, a new future

Why this matters, especially for a New Year

2 Corinthians 5:17 doesn’t promise a new calendar. It declares a new identity

You don’t step into a new year trying to become someone else

The temptation at the start of a new year is to believe “I need to become someone else before God can use me”

Scripture says the opposite, God used

David was a **shepherd boy** before he was king, Moses was a **stuttering man** before he was a leader, Mary a **teenage girl** before she was a mother; **none of them waited for a “better year”**

This new year doesn't require a better version of you; **it requires a surrendered version of ourselves**

That's not wishful thinking, that's gospel truth

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 43:19 NKJV

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How These Verses Fit Together

Isaiah 43:19 declares God's intention

2 Corinthians 5:17 reveals God's method

In **Isaiah**, God promises a *new work*, something unmistakably His, something only He can accomplish

In **2 Corinthians**, Paul tells us exactly where that new work begins: **inside the believer**

God's “**new thing**” is not first a change of circumstances It is a **change of creation**

Roads in the Wilderness & New Creation in Christ

Isaiah speaks of **roads where none existed** and **rivers where life was impossible**

Paul explains how God does that, **Old things have passed away. All things have become new**

“**Behold**” appears in both verses for a good reason

Isaiah says: Behold, I will do a new thing

Paul says: **Behold, all things have become new**

“**Behold**” is a call to **pay attention**—to recognize what God is already doing

God's new work often starts quietly: a changed heart, a new desire, a softened conscience, a renewed obedience

Before anything changes *around* you, **God changes something *within* you**

The new thing is not just ahead of You, it is in You

There's something sacred about the turning of a year

New **calendars**, fresh **planners**, bold **resolutions**... most of which won't survive by January 9th

God doesn't wait for January to start doing extraordinary things; **He waits for a willing heart**

The same God who stepped into ordinary lives throughout Scripture is stepping into this year

God begins with ordinary people

God's favorite launchpad for a new year is a willing, faithful, humble-hearted people

Most biblical callings didn't come with **timelines or explanations, just obedience**

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out... not knowing where he was going
Hebrews 11:8 NKJV

You may not know how this year will unfold, what challenges are coming, what doors God will open or close

But you can know **who walks with you into it**

The same **Holy Spirit** who overshadowed Mary now indwells believers

As we step into a new year, God doesn't say, "Good luck." He says, "**I will be with you**"

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you... Romans 8:11 NKJV

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19 – 20 NKJV

That means 2026 is not faced alone, the **Holy Spirit**...

Guides decisions, strengthens endurance, produces Christlike character, empowers faithful witness

We as a Church don't need to resolve harder, we need to **walk closer**

Because, years change, circumstances shift, however, Jesus remains

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

Because **Jesus is fully man**, He understands your anxiety about the future

Because **Jesus is fully God**, He holds the future you're anxious about

2026 is **not uncertain to Him**; it's already in His hands

Because of that this new year isn't just a personal reset; it's a missional opportunity

Let your light so shine before men... Matthew 5:16 NKJV

This year, the light looks like this: **faithfulness** when culture drifts, **kindness** when tempers flare, **Truth is spoken** with grace, **service** when no one notices

God doesn't call us to foresee the darkness; He calls us to shine in it

As I said last week, fear loses its grip in God's Presence

A new year often brings new fears

But fear never gets the final word

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

Be strong and of good courage... for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go Joshua 1:9 NKJV

God doesn't promise an easy year; He does promise His presence

And His presence changes everything