

# A FRESH START

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*Philippians 3:12-16*

# Introduction

*Many People are preparing for the New Year and Preparing for a Fresh Start  
They will make NEW YEAR'S Resolutions*

*New Years' Resolutions Are Decisions Made **TO DO SOMETHING**  
72% of these **RESOLUTIONS** are not achieved*

*Why?*

*They are not **COMMITMENTS**  
They are not **CONNECTED TO PROMISES**  
They are not done **THROUGH GOD'S POWER***

*Instead of Resolutions **MAKE A COMMITMENT** To Do A Spiritual Reset!!!*

*Psalm 37:5 (NKJV)*

*5 **COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD**, Trust also in Him, And **HE SHALL BRING IT TO PASS.***

*Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)*

*3 **COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO**, and **YOUR PLANS WILL SUCCEED.***

# Introduction

*The Bible Speaks A Lot About Fresh Starts*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)*

17 Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, he is **a new creation**; the old has gone, **THE NEW** has come!

*Isaiah 43:19 (NLT)*

19 For I am about to **DO SOMETHING NEW**. See, I have already begun! **DO YOU NOT SEE IT?**  
I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

*Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV)*

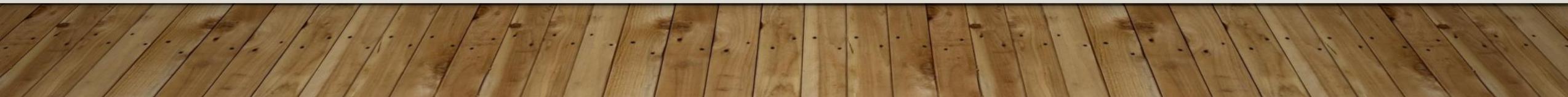
22 Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.  
23 They are **NEW EVERY MORNING**; Great is Your faithfulness.

*Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)*

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made **NEW IN THE ATTITUDE OF YOUR MINDS**; 24 and to put on **THE NEW SELF**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

*Psalms 51:10 (NASB)*

10 Create in me **A CLEAN HEART**, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.



# From Paul's Perspective

## Philippians 3:12-16 (NLT)

12 *I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection.*

*But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.*

13 *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,* 14 *I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.* 15 *Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things.*

*If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.*

16 *But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.*

- *Begin With Self and Situation Evaluation*
  - *Simplify Your Devotion/Dedication*
    - *Look In The Right Direction*
    - *Be Strong In Your Determination*
  - *Don't Lose Sight Of Your Development*



# It Begins With Self-Evaluation

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*But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.*

13 *No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing...*

The First Step Toward Spiritual Maturity, Growth and Development is **EVALUATING SELF...**

Paul has a sense of **Self-Dissatisfaction**

Many Christians are **SELF-SATISFIED** because they compare their progress with that of others...

## Romans 7:15, 18, 21 (NLT)

15 *I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.*

18 *And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't.*

21 *I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.*

## Why Is This Important

### 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT)

12 *If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

If you have a wrong **ASSESSMENT OF YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH...YOU ARE DESTINED TO FALL...**

Example: Peter

### Matthew 26:35 (NASB)

35 *Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.*

# *It Begins With Self-Evaluation*

*Isaiah 3:11 (NASB)*

11 **Woe to the wicked!** It will go badly *with him*, For what *he deserves will be done to him*.

*Isaiah 5:8 (NASB)*

8 **Woe to those** who add house to house and join field to field, Until there is no more room,  
So that you have to live alone in the midst of the land!

*Isaiah 5:11 (NASB)*

11 **Woe to those** who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink,  
Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame **them!**

*Isaiah 5:18 (NASB)*

18 **Woe to those** who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, And sin as if with cart ropes;

*Isaiah 5:20-23 (NASB)*

20 **Woe to those** who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;  
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! 21 **Woe to those** who are wise in their own eyes And clever  
in their own sight! 22 **Woe to those** who are heroes in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink,  
23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!

# It Begins With Self-Evaluation

## Isaiah 6:1 (NASB)

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death **I SAW THE LORD** sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

## Isaiah 6:5-8 (NASB)

5 Then I said, "**WOE IS ME**, for **I** am ruined! Because **I am** a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For **MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE KING**, the LORD of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 He touched **MY MOUTH** with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and **your iniquity** is taken away and **your sin** is forgiven." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "**HERE AM I. SEND ME!**"

## What Caused the Change In Isaiah...

*He saw the Lord Himself*

*He took his eyes off the wickedness of others*

## **EVALUATION led to a NEW EXPERIENCE**

## Psalm 139:23-24 (NLT)

23 **SEARCH ME, O GOD**, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

24 Point out anything in me that offends you, and **LEAD ME ALONG THE PATH OF EVERLASTING LIFE.**

## *In Conclusion*

*We Must Make **Commitments To The Lord** To Have A Fresh Start*

*A Fresh Start Begins With A **Proper Evaluation Of Self!!!***

*Next Week*

*Evaluation of Your Situation*

