

Pastor Jeno Erdelyi, 12/28/25
A Clean Slate, A New Beginning
Heb 9:12-14, Heb 10:19-20, Col 2:14, 2 Cor 5:17, Heb 8:12

A new year calls for NEUTRALIZING the past.

You cannot carry last year's guilt into a new year and expect peace. In the Old Testament, the people waited every year for a priest to bring them atonement. They lived with anticipation: "Will the sacrifice be enough this year?" But Jesus changed everything. You don't start the new year wondering if you're forgiven. *Peace comes from finished forgiveness, not ongoing uncertainty.* You start the new year because you ARE forgiven. Your past does not define your future. Your identity is not in last year's mistakes but in Christ's finished work. *Identity is shaped by Christ's work, not by past failure.*

A new year calls for REALIGNMENT with God's presence.

On Yom Kippur only one man, once a year, could enter the presence of God. Because of Jesus' sacrifice—and the tearing of the veil—we now have daily access, confident access, and permanent access to God's presence. *Spiritual alignment begins with access, not effort.* Start your year not with good intentions but with God's presence. Prayer isn't just a discipline—it's access. Worship isn't ritual—it's relationship. Scripture isn't a chore—it's communion. You don't enter the year alone; you enter it boldly before the throne of grace. *Lasting transformation grows out of relationship not ritual.*

A new year calls for WALKING in a "New and Living Way."

New Year's goals die in weeks. A new year invites us to walk in what Christ has already made alive. Resolutions fade, but the way Jesus opens is living – it grows, sustains, and transforms us day by day. This year, we walk forgiven, not condemned. We walk with purpose, not pressure. We walk by the Spirit, not by self-effort. We walk in freedom that Christ has fully purchased. *The Christian life is a journey walked, not a doorway crossed.* Jesus doesn't merely open the door to a new life – He walks beside us every step of the way. *Direction matters more than perfection in spiritual progress.* Walking with Christ means steady movement in freedom and obedience, trusting His guidance rather than demanding flawless steps.