



New

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“New” Presents Us With Opportunities

- To do good and/or to do bad

“I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I can’t. I do what I don’t want to—what I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience proves that... It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.”

Romans 7:15-16, 21 (Message)

- To grow or stagnate or, decline

See The Parable of The Sower (Farmer) in Mark 4:3-20.

- To make decisions

Opportunities Produce Challenges

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us—they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady.” **Romans 5:3-4** (Living Bible)

“...Is your life full of difficulties and temptations? Then be happy, for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don’t try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.” **James 1:2-4** (Living Bible)

Challenges Give Birth To Fears

- Fears can serve as a catalyst or as quick-sand

Fears Lead Us To A Response

- This New Year consider responding like two people who faced new opportunities that were wrought with unbelievable challenges and that came with their own sets of fears...

“Here I am, the Lord’s humble servant. As you have said, let it be done to me.”

Luke 1:38a (Voice, translation)

“Joseph woke up from his dream and did exactly what the messenger had told him to do: he married Mary and brought her into his home as his wife.” **Matthew 1:24** (Voice, translation)