

“What’s New?”

“But forget all that- it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?” Isaiah 43:18-19

A. God has begun a new work in your life...

“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.” Philippians 1:6 NLT

“There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.”

Philippians 1:6 The Message

1. The new life in you was initiated by God.
2. The new life in you is led by God.
3. The new life in you will be completed by God!

B. We need God to continue that work...

1. When we face affliction, we need the perseverance of Jesus to be working in us.

“For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

2. When we face the pressures of this life, we need the energy and strength that we find in Jesus.

“For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.” Philippians 2:13

3. When we face the complexities of life, we need God’s wisdom to see us through.

“If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.” James 1:5-6a

4. When we face the changes all around us, we need the stability of Christ.

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

5. When we face the changing cultural values, we need the continued authority of God’s Word and His strength.

“Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received His message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13

C. Get your focus clear for the New Year...

“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, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.” Philippians 3:13-15

1. Commit yourself to look ahead rather than what is behind.

“Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.” Proverbs 4:25

2. Keep focused on God’s work in the future.

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” Isaiah 43:18-19a NIV

3. Let go of the “old” and welcome the “new”.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

D. Let go of the past...don’t allow it to control your future...

“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” John 8:36

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:32

“But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 1:9

“Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1b

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” John 10:10

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“For His unfailing love toward those who fear Him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth.

He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” Psalm 103:11-12

E. Keep your focus on Jesus...and the rest will take care of itself!

“We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.” Hebrews 12:2 NLT

“Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how He did it. Because He never lost sight of where He was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—

He could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now He’s there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility He plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!”

Hebrews 12:2 The Message

1. Focus on His power!
2. Focus on His love!
3. Focus on His wisdom!
4. Focus on His grace!
5. Focus on His mercy!
6. Focus on Him!

