

Beginning Again

“Do not call to mind the former things, do not dwell on the past. Behold, I will do something new.” Isaiah 43:18

Have you wondered what life might be like if you messed up and couldn't start over? What if life threw you a curve ball that struck you out and you weren't allowed to step up to the plate and swing away again? What if, when you dropped the ball, God blew the whistle, and the game of life was over?

Flops, failures, fumbles, sins, mistakes, setbacks, heartbreaks, blown opportunities....everyone needs a fresh start...a second change...a new beginning from time to time.

From beginning to end, the Bible is a book of new beginnings. Study the men and women found in scripture. You will discover one common denominator: they all needed a new beginning at some time in their faith journey. God declares in Revelation 21:5 *“And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new. And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”* God revealed to the apostle John that God was making all things new. It is true. God is faithful to make all things new...in the future and in the present.

In Isaiah 43:18-21, God spoke to His people Israel through the prophet Isaiah. God's chosen people had sinned against Him, worshipping idols. While captive by a cruel, godless enemy, God reached out to His despairing, heartbroken people with a promise of something new. He gave them a glimmer of hope of a brighter future filled with better days.

God told His people not to dwell, rivet, focus their thoughts on the past. Why? Because He was going to do something new. Former days of destitution and depression would give way to future days of God's presence and prosperity. He told them they would see it. It would come to pass. He would make a way for them and provide for all their needs as they began again. Then they would rise up and give Him glory for a new beginning.

Have you ever needed the hope of better days? A promise that something new was in store for you? I have, more than once.

I am so thankful that God is a God of new beginnings. I would be lost for eternity if God did not send His only son Jesus Christ to be my Savior and Lord. I became a new person with a new identity and destiny when I received Christ into my heart.

“Therefore, if any man is in Christ he is a new creature; the old things passed away, behold, new things have come.”
II Corinthians 5:17

My sins were forgiven and I received the free gift of eternal life when I became a Christian. A whole new perspective, a holy, healthy and happy view of life opened up for me when I surrendered my life to Christ. I am grateful everyday for my salvation. Old things have passed away, all things have become for Steve Roll.

It is a fact of life that life happens. Throughout my Christian life I have had to begin again numerous times, sometimes by choice, other times by default.

- When my wife and I miscarried our first two children.
- When I was depressed and suicidal over a professional setback.
- When I failed myself in an area of personal discipline.
- When I was out of ministry and had to start over.
- When my dream turned into a nightmare.
- When I was betrayed by friends who I trusted and counted on.
- When I was unemployed for over two years and had to make ends meet.
- When I experienced a confidence crisis that clouded my vision.

Maybe you are currently unemployed and need a new job. Maybe you have gone through a gut-wrenching divorce and are lonely for healthy companionship. Maybe you have a rebellious teenager who wants nothing to do with you and it is ripping your heart out. Maybe you lost your savings in this economy and are worried about retirement. Maybe you miscarried your child and desperately want to be a parent. Maybe you are suffering from a serious illness. Maybe an estranged relationship. Maybe you are enslaved to an addictive substance. Maybe you are a minister who lost your ministry. Maybe, maybe, maybe...what might your maybe be?

“Maybe” might mean you need a new beginning. And maybe, just maybe, God has something new for you.

I have good news for you...a new beginning from God awaits you. If you will look to the Lord and trust Him with your situation, He will turn upside down things right side up. Darkness will give way to light. Order and purpose will replace confusion and lack of direction. Almighty God can take negative things and create a positive outcome. Here are a few encouraging thoughts about beginning again.

- Beginning again means I am not bound by the past.
- Beginning again means there is hope for my future.
- Beginning again means the future is forward.
- Beginning again means that God isn't done with me.
- Beginning again means that God believes in me and I can believe in me.

- Beginning again is an opportunity to do better the next time.
- Beginning again means I get a chance to turn failure into success.
- Beginning again means I get to start over wiser and more experienced. .
- Beginning again means a breath of fresh air in life.
- Beginning again means I get another shot to glorify God!

New Beginning Scriptures

“Behold the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things....”

Isaiah

42:9

“And straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” And she said, “No one Lord. And Jesus said to her, “neither do I condemn you; go your way. From now on sin no more.”

John 8:10-11

“One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal or the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1

“But Jesus was saying (from the Cross), “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing...”

Luke 23:34

“Moreover I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

Ezekiel

36:26

“And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Ephesians 4:24

“The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

“For from of old they have not heard, nor perceived by ear, neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, who acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him.”

Isaiah 64:4

“The end of a matter is better than its beginning; patience of spirit is better than an arrogant spirit.”

Ecclesiastes 7:7-8

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away....”
Revelation 21:1

“Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things (new) that you do not know.”
Jeremiah 33:3

“And He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and will trust in the Lord.”
Psalms 40:3

You Can Begin Again

Beginning again requires effort. A fresh start is not automatic. There are things you and I must do to begin again. If you will take the following steps, you can begin again.

- ✓ Receive God’s forgiveness for past sins, mistakes, and failures.
- ✓ Forgive yourself for past sins, mistakes, and failures.
- ✓ Cut yourself some slack. Quit beating up on yourself. .
- ✓ Build yourself up. Stop tearing yourself down.
- ✓ Reject rejection. Abandon abandonment. Scuttle shame and humiliation.
- ✓ Severe past relationships that might hinder you from a fresh start.
- ✓ Believe it is a new day. Think and behave that way.
- ✓ Minimize your weakness, maximize your strengths.
- ✓ Enlist a trusted friend to keep you accountable to your new lifestyle.
- ✓ Look to the Lord everyday for strength and guidance as you begin again.
- ✓ Rejoice in the Lord for the opportunity to start over and begin again.

Let’s Get Started

1. This is the area of life in which I need a new beginning.
2. This is what I believe a new beginning should look like.
3. I believe the Lord will do this for me as I step out to begin again.
4. With God’s help this is what I will begin to do today to begin again.

5. Take a few moments to thank God for the opportunity to begin again.

Your future is forward. Take the first step. Choose to put your past in the rear view mirror. Then look straight ahead through the windshield of faith and journey down the road of new life in Christ.

Restored and beginning again...nothing better in life.

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