

Monday, January 9

The new year is always a great time to evaluate your life and relationships, and it is also a great time to consider the wonder and majesty of the God you serve. God, as Creator, is always making things new. As the new year begins, you too should start out with a new song in your heart for the God who loves and takes care of you.

Psalm 33

- List the reasons that the psalmist gave God praise on today's reading. Which of these resounds in your heart also?
- For what do you need to thank God in the year that has ended? What "new song" do you need to sing to God as you begin this new year?

Tuesday, January 10

Not only is God the creator of new things, God is a God of new chances. One of the most striking characteristics seen between God and the Israelite people in the Old Testament is the continual opportunity for repentance, grace, and restoration. And in Jesus' teaching and ministry you see God's great desire for everyone to return to right relationship no matter what they have done or how many times they have failed.

Isaiah 55:6-9 and Luke 15:11-32

- What are the characteristics of the Father in the story of the prodigal son? Which means the most to you?
- How has God shown you love and mercy this year even when you didn't deserve it?

Wednesday, January 11

The God of another chance is also the God who restores you to new life and power. You no longer have to live in sin and defeat; in Christ you are blessed and given renewed life so that you can live to honor God. Christ also honors you by commissioning you to take this wonderful message of life to those around you who are broken.

Romans 6:1-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- According to Romans 6, how do you break from the bands of sinful living?
- What will you do in this new year to serve as Christ's ambassador?

Thursday, January 12

Everyone goes through time of spiritual struggle or fatigue, whether from persecution, personal struggles, physical issues, or spiritual burnout. But God promises to renew you and give you continual strength if you will just rely on the Holy Spirit day by day. Even when things around you are seemingly in turmoil, fix your eyes and faith on God and you will become rejuvenated and refreshed.

Isaiah 40:25-31 and Corinthians 4:7-18

- What does Isaiah advise in order to become renewed in strength? How about Paul in the 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 reading?
- How much time each day do you allow God the opportunity to renew your life and spirit?