

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
teaching and admonishing one another
in all wisdom,
singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
with thankfulness in your hearts to God.



New Year's Devotional 2021

Scripture

Reflections in Scripture on things that are new. New is a gift from God. Some of the best promises in Scripture are described as new.

Psalm 40:3 *He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.*

Isaiah 43:18-19 *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 62:2 *The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.*

Jeremiah 31:31 *Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.*

Lamentations 3:22-24 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

Ezekiel 36:26 *I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

John 13:34 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

II Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Ephesians 4:22-24 *Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

Revelation 2:17 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.*

Revelation 21:1-5 *I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

Song

Psalm 59:16 *But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.*

This is a Day of New Beginnings (can be sung to tune of Morning Has Broken)

This is a day of new beginnings,
Time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
Can make for us a world of difference,
As faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
Step from the past and leave behind
Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
Seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us,
To show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.

In faith we'll gather round the table,
To taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new.

("This is a Day of New Beginnings" text Brian A. Wren © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Co., CCLI #358926)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, it is one thing to consider you are that God who can create out of nothing, who makes something where there is nothing. But it is yet something else to consider you are that God who can also take old things, ugly things, dead things, sinful things and make them new, pure, holy, right, true. That God who breathes new hope and new life into our hearts.

Thank you for a new year with new opportunities and a fresh start. More importantly thank you for the new life you have given us in Christ and the new self you are creating in us by your Holy Spirit.

Thank you for that new day that is coming when you will make a new heaven and a new earth, where there will be no more sin and death, no more tears or pain or sorrow.

We pray now for those who need a new word, a new hope, a new promise.

We pray for those who are crying; the sad, the depressed and the anxious. We hope in the promise that God will wipe every tear from our eyes. Make all things new for them.

We pray for those who are experiencing the consequences of death, the bereaved and those who are mourning. We hope in the promise that death and mourning will be no more. Make all things new for them.

We pray for those who are in pain, suffering from illness either physical or mental. We hope in the promise that crying and pain will be no more. Make all things new for them.

We pray for those who are thirsty for truth, love and grace; those who seek God and his life with earnest hearts. We hope in the promise that God will give water to the thirsty without cost from the spring of the water of life. Make all things new for them.

We pray for those caught in the bondage of sin who need new grace and mercy and forgiveness. Make all things new for them.

We pray for those for whom this past year has been especially hard. Make all things new for them.

We pray for all who need the old to pass away and the new to come through Jesus Christ.
Amen.