

Bringing In the New Year

The countdown begins: 10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1. Happy New Year!!! The initial worldly countdown was in Australia and 16 hours later, it started at Times Square in New York City. The ball completed its descent and the numbers 2015 illuminated for the entire world to see. New Year's Eve, the last day of 2014, had become New Year's Day. The old was gone and in came the new.

The next morning we replaced our old calendar with one that said 2015. The New Year brought fresh goals and a new start.

Isn't that a great feeling? If you had struggles in 2014 you have a new opportunity to start over again. Many of your worries could now be ancient history, as you look forward to creating new opportunities in the 365 days to come.



Wishful thinking often becomes the subject matter for New Year's Resolutions. Some resolutions acknowledge what we should already be doing, while others are genuine changes to lead a different life.

Let your change start with the person who came to change the world. Jesus offers you a fresh start. The decision to follow Christ is the right answer to a new direction in your life. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Not only does God promise us a fresh start but he allows us to let the old to be left behind. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9). Those nagging issues that ate away at you last year can be a thing of the past.

Are some of your issues tension between you and another person – relationship issues? Forgive others and God will forgive you. How can you be sure God can forgive you? He says in Hebrews 10:17, *Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more."*

Happy New Year. Let 2015 be a fresh start as you move forward with a clean slate.

Questions: Are you ready to shed the issues the plaque you and sap your energy? Are you willing to make the first move to forgive others, and then ask God for forgiveness?

Prayer: Lord. We thank you for the many blessings you gave us in 2014 and look forward to the coming year. We ask your help in making the resolution to approach the New Year with a clean heart and mind, as you give us a fresh start in our lives. Amen.