

Renew A Right Spirit Within Me

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Late in 2020 there were many Facebook posts about people who planned to stay up until the Times Square ball dropped. It wasn't about ushering in the New Year, but ensuring that 2020 was over. 2020 had been a year of horrible events in our world, each seemingly compounding on another. In our minds many of us began a tally of events that made 2020 the most difficult year of our lives. The pandemic caused a massive trickle-down effect in many aspects of our lives. Everyone wanted to see 2020 in their rear view mirror and to make a fresh start in 2021.



The truth is, deep down, we all know that the New Year won't be void of its own problems. That is life as we know it, as we are humans living in a sinful world. January will bring the next national crisis with warnings about how it is going to affect our lives. Many of us are apprehensive or downright fearful of what is in store for us. It is difficult staying upbeat amid the constant bad news. Yet there is Good News. Jesus Christ was born to atone for our sins.

We didn't have to wait until the clock struck midnight to know of God's faithfulness and love for us. The Bible reminds us, "*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.*" (*Lamentations 3:22-23*). That is encouraging. His love for us never ceases and His mercies are new every morning.

God knows the difficulties we are facing and He offers to strengthen us to face those challenges. *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you in my righteous hand (Isaiah 40:10).*



While we want to bid good riddance to the old year and begin anew, think about this verse: "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come*" (*2 Corinthians 5:17*). It has nothing to do with the calendar but everything to do with the condition of our heart. We *can* have a new beginning when we deepen our relationship with our Lord and Savior. The old will be gone and we will be renewed. The New Year can be different if we approach it with faith and trust in God.

As you embark on the New Year focus on your relationship with God and He will help you through whatever the world throws in your path. With God's help, rise above the troubles of this world and focus on your faith in the Lord. Seek a clean heart and a renewed commitment to the Lord. Renew a right spirit within you.

The Bible Says: *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Psalm 51:10).*

Question: How can you not be overcome by the world, but seek a stronger relationship with God, the Creator?

Closing Prayer: This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.