

LET GOD DO A NEW THING IN YOU IN THE NEW YEAR

As we begin a New Year I am reminded of the “Calvin and Hobbes” comic strip when Calvin says, “I’m getting disillusioned with these New Years. They don’t seem very new at all. Each New Year is just like the old year. Here another year has gone by and everything’s still the same. There’s still pollution and war and stupidity and greed. Things haven’t changed. I say what kind of future is this. I thought things were supposed to improve. I thought the future was supposed to be better.” Hobbes replies with his usual keen insight, “The problem with the future is that it keeps turning into the present.”

The New Year is traditionally a time for reflection. We look back over the year and assess our successes and failures. We gain some satisfaction over our successes, and we experience some grief and guilt over our failures. Each time we face a new beginning. We have hopes that things will be different and hopefully better. But as Hobbes says, the future just keeps turning into more of the present. Yet, we pray that the Holy Spirit may fall afresh on us, and the future will be full of exciting new possibilities, positive change and new growth. We tire of having the “same old, same old.”

I believe with all my heart that God wants something better for us than that. I believe that God loves doing a new thing in our lives. He said in Revelation 21:5: “See I am making everything new.” That is the exciting thing about knowing God. God loves doing a new thing. God loves change, especially changed lives. Resolutions are hard to keep. Trying to drop an old habit and begin a new one is difficult. Turning over a new leaf is hard. What we need is not inspiration, but a transformation. We need a change in our lives that comes from God. What everyone needs is something that will permanently affect their life situation. What we need is something that will truly satisfy our longings something that will bring true and lasting change. That comes as we confess our sins and accept Jesus as our Lord and our Savior. It continues as we daily seek, daily surrender, daily yield to the direction of God’s Holy Spirit.

God wants something better for us in this New Year than we have experienced in the past. Just reflect on the names God calls you blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God. Stop letting your past dictate your present and future. Let go of the past and let God take hold of you. Do not carrying around the past like a weight that hinders but let God set you free and on a new path in a new year. Listen as God gives you a new beginning for this New Year, and then go out and live as blessed, chosen, holy, blameless, adopted sons and daughters of God. The Lord is faithful, and if you will yield to His Holy Spirit there can be a NEW YOU in a NEW YEAR.