

It is January and therefore it is New Year's resolution time. Right? Have you noticed the increase in health club commercials? They know it is time. Have you made any resolutions? I used to but I have not done so for quite some time now. But it is still hard to deny that there is something about a new year that triggers a reset in some people; a good time to make changes in one's life, whether they call it a "resolution" or not. Maybe it is starting a Bible reading plan or turning over a new leaf of lettuce in order to shed some pounds. Maybe you want to kick a bad habit like smoking or limit your Diet Coke consumption. Maybe that "magical day" of January 1 is the beginning of a new you. Sounds kind of weird, does it not? What is it about January 1 that gives people hope? The previous year is done and thus things will be better this year. How many people said that on January 1, 2021; after that year to forget that was 2020. Covid did not magically disappear with the turning of the calendar.

But suffice it to say, New Year's resolutions rarely last because often people make lofty goals that they cannot sustain. They fail and then give up, and once they give up, well, you have to wait until that next "magical day". Right? Wrong.

Every day, every moment is a chance to start over. Start reading your Bible now, and if you miss a day, read the next day and start a new streak. Do you want to eat healthier? Then start right now, and when you splurge on a tub of ice cream some evening, start over the next day. Do not wait until January 1 to begin anew. Start (and in some cases again) now.

But of course, you know I am not here to write about kicking bad habits. You see, in Christ you are a New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). It then goes on to say that the old has passed away and the new has come. And thus, through God's grace, each moment is a chance for a new beginning. Have you fallen in sin? Then get up and confess your sins, and through faith in Jesus you will be forgiven, a new start. And WHEN you fall again, get up and confess your sins again. Lather, rinse, repeat. You get the point. Do not wait to start anew with God, for God is waiting for you. Through Jesus, He will not turn you away. It matters not the severity or magnitude of your sin, with God there is always a new beginning. Always.

Resolve to turn to God and know His amazing grace today, and every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.