

“New Beginnings”

Resolutions, resolution, resolutions. It is a new year. I do not know about you but I have difficulty keeping the resolutions I have made in times past so I choose not to make resolutions anymore. I just have to be honest about this idea of making resolutions and I understand how most people work hard keeping their resolutions. I applaud people who find success in doing so at the beginning of a new year. Congratulations to each and every one of you. But, if you are like me then what is next? I do not believe that lumbering through life is a good decision. I do believe direction and focus is important for all of us. So, if we are not resolution people because we are honest about those long range goals that are difficult for us to keep then what about some short term goals. What about a new beginning? And your response might be.....you just do not know the trials and problems I have had this past year...there have been illness, death in family, family breakups, financial problems and on and on and on. And you are right. I do not know and I do not want to minimize the importance of each of these trials and problems you have gone through. I have been there and done that myself this past year, but.....What about a new beginning?

I heard a preacher recently speak about a well known minister who was being interviewed. The person doing the interviewing was expecting some kind of a divine answer to a simple question. The question was something like this....Each day that you face, how does it start? And the not so divine answer was, *Before I get out of bed I just thank God for what he has done for me and ask him to help me get through this day. Then, I get out of bed with the assurance that God has heard me and will help me get through the day.* In the quiet of the morning before the schedule begins, I talk and God listens and throughout the day I must remind myself that God just might be talking to me. Psalm 46:10....”Be still, and know that I am God... (NIV)” Chill out, calm down, it is not all accomplished by our own initiative. ***Psalm 46:10 encourages us to reflect on what God can do in the face of what we are unable to do. This command—“be still”—forces us to think on two things: that we are finite, and that God is infinite.*** (Jason Jackson, <http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1245-be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god>)

This is our new beginning, our new direction, a focus just for us. The biggest difference for me was when I recognized that my power, my strength, my determination, my great organization skills were not enough. It never will be enough. “Be still, and know that I am God”. What a great beginning for a new year. Not a resolution.....just a great beginning and with this the possibilities are infinite.

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