

January Devotional 2018

I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

'After this Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years' (Job 42:16-17).

The book of Job ends on a note of contentment and peace. Job was probably about seventy when the book opens, so he is an old man. What a picture of peace, a contented man. God had greatly blessed him.

Before us stretches a new year, a new beginning perhaps or new ending, afresh start. The old is past, put away forever. God invites us always to forget about all the distrust and fears, all the anxieties of the past, all the resentments we have been holding against others, all the grudges, all the criticisms--to put them away and begin again.

God, through the prophet Isaiah, encouraged Jewish exiles to think about a new beginning as well. God said, "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old" (Isa. 43:18). He told them to stop dwelling on their punishment and even on His display of power through the original exodus from Egypt. He wanted their attention to be focused on God who would give them a new beginning by bringing them home from Babylon through a new exodus (v.19).

With God, new beginnings are possible in our hearts. He can help us to let go of the past and start clinging to Him. Relationship with Him provides a new hope for all who will trust Him.

If I were to make a New Year resolution, it would be to have a deeper commitment, a deeper love, and a deeper worship for the Lord.

This year I am determined to make Him my all and all. He wants our undivided attention in spite of the distractions and temptations that lie waiting around the corner. He must be our main focus.

We must keep trusting in our God, his love and faithfulness, he is a God of the past, present and future, he knows all that will happen and he wants only the best for us, no matter who we are and what we have done!

Jeremiah 29:11 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

With his richest blessing

Pastor