



The Hope of New Beginnings

by John Himmelberger

Intro

The world offers fresh starts through resolutions, but God offers something deeper, renewal rooted in His mercy. This teaching invites us to release the weight of past failures and step forward in faith, grounded in the unchanging nature of a God who makes all things new. Whether you're facing transition, uncertainty, or simply longing for a reset, this is your reminder that His compassions are new every morning, and He's not done writing your story.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be 'salt' and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Opening Thought:

The end of the year is a natural time for reflection, but it's also a reminder of the fresh mercies God extends to us daily. While the world may frame new beginnings around resolutions and self-improvement, we as believers ground our hope in the truth that God is always at work, making all things new.

Key Scriptures:

1. Lamentations 3:22-23 (AMP):

"It is because of the Lord's lovingkindnesses that we are not consumed, because His [tender] compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great and beyond measure is Your faithfulness."

- Emphasize that God's mercy isn't a one-time offer but is renewed every day, offering us a continual fresh start.

2. Isaiah 43:18-19 (AMP):

"Do not remember the former things, or ponder the things of the past. Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert."

- Highlight God's ability to create new paths where there seem to be none. Encourage people to release past disappointments or failures and trust in His new work.

3. Philippians 1:6 (AMP):

"I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return]."

- God isn't finished with us. The new year is a continuation of the good work He's already started.

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Key Themes to Explore:

1. God's Mercy as a Foundation for New Beginnings

- Start by acknowledging the struggles or burdens the congregation may have faced this year.
- Transition to the hope found in God's mercy. Share how His faithfulness sustains us, giving us the strength to let go of the past and move forward.

2. Letting Go of the Past

- Reflect on **Isaiah 43:18-19**, addressing the temptation to dwell on failures, losses, or even successes.
- Discuss the need to let go in order to embrace the "new thing" God is doing.

3. Living with Expectation

- New beginnings aren't just about starting over; they're about walking forward in faith.
- Encourage the congregation to ask, "What new thing is God doing in me and through me?"

4. Partnering with God in the New Year

- Use **Philippians 1:6** to remind them that they're not walking into the new year alone.
- Share practical ways to partner with God: prayer, scripture, community, and obedience to His leading.

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Application Points:

1. Release the Past:

- Offer a moment of reflection during the service where people can symbolically release their burdens.
- Example: Write down something they're letting go of (e.g., regrets, failures) and leave it at the altar.

2. Anchor in Hope:

- Challenge the congregation to choose one scripture about hope to meditate on as they transition into the new year.

3. Practical New Beginnings:

- Encourage starting the year with intentional spiritual disciplines, such as a Bible reading plan or a "gratitude journal" to capture God's faithfulness.
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Illustrations/Examples:

1. A Morning Sunrise:

- Talk about the faithfulness of the sun rising every day as a reflection of God's mercies being new each morning.

2. The Potter and the Clay:

- Share an analogy of a potter reshaping the clay when imperfections arise, reminding us that God continues to shape us even when we feel broken.
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Closing Thought:

Thought:

The hope of new beginnings is not tied to the calendar—it's tied to God's unchanging nature. He is always inviting us into renewal, reminding us that He's not done with us yet.