

Melva's Corner

NEW YEAR PRAYER

January 8, 2007

(Isaiah 25:9 NLT)

Central Truth: Help us look beyond what we can see!

Every day is for celebrating and rejoicing in the day of life, of grace, of forgiveness!

As you might expect, the turning of the calendar to a new year is a big deal to me. Doesn't the idea of a clean slate appeal to you too? Doesn't the chance to start over sound great? But I'm not necessarily suggesting that you make a long list of New Year's Resolutions. In fact, I'm against it.

Long lists are intimidating and frustrating. Most resolutions are too vague – reduce stress, save more money, be more helpful at home. And the notion of pledging to do something for 365 days is tough on people who are honest about how hard it is to keep that pledge. Perhaps there is a better way.

Remember the advice Jesus gave about just taking care of today and not biting off tomorrow's troubles? "Each day has challenges enough of its own!" he said. Think about it, and you will realize that your own experience confirms it.

In the context of that statement, Jesus gave this counsel: "Strive above all else for the reign of God in your life, and the things that have been worrying you will resolve!" God's reign requires conscious surrender. Not of the entire year but of today's trouble, this stress, or a particular loss. Not of the other person but of my attitude toward them. Not of yesterday's failure so much as today's opportunity.

New Year 2007 is God's mercy to you. With His presence a reality and in one-day-at-a-time surrender to Him, creative new things will come out of the waste-and-void chaos of the past. And life can be fresh every morning.

Heavenly Father,

Give us a new year. Not just a new number, but a truly new year. Give us a year full of new things, new adventures, new attitudes, and visions. Lord, give us a new year full of new ideas and refresh some of our old ideas. Give us new relationships and renew old relationships, and restore relationships that have been broken.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a new song. Give us a new memory. Give us a new image of Your Son, and help us to show His image of those who are new to You. Give us new thoughts, new friends, and new things that replace the old worn-out things.

Father, give us a new year. The year that has just ended was difficult for some of us. There were struggles and frustrations and disappointments that we did not handle so well. Give us a better mentality and better spiritual insight that will help us deal with the struggles, frustrations and disappointments that will come in this New Year.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a year filled with new ministries, new opportunities, new voices, and new messages. Help us hold on to the old things that are worth holding, and help us let go of the old things that have served their purpose.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a year that is not controlled by fear. A year in which we are not afraid of people who are different. A year when we are not afraid of ideas that are new, of plans that are new, and places that are new.

Father, give us a new year. Give us a year filled with new love. A new love for You. A new love for each other. A new love for Your Kingdom. A new love for strangers. A new love for the helpless. A new love for the needy. A new love for poor. A new love for rich. A new love for all people.

Father, give us a new year. Help us put the old one to bed. Help us to leave the things of the past in the past. Help us look forward. Help us look beyond what we can see to what You have planned for us that we cannot see. Help us move forward with confidence and courage and humility and gentleness.

Father, give us a new year. Help us, in this New Year to completely surrender to You and what You have planned for us in this year filled with new things.

Scriptural References:

In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God. We trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, in whom we trusted. Let us rejoice in the salvation he brings!" (Isaiah 25:9 NLT)