

Melva's Corner

CHOOSE THE BETTER WAY THE WAY OF BLESSING

November 27, 2006

(Isaiah 48:6 NIV)

Central Truth: God spoke light into darkness, order into chaos and life into dust.

“At that time, people will say, The Lord has saved us! Let's celebrate. We waited and hoped—Now our God is here.” Isaiah 25:9 (Contemporary English Version)

As we enter the Christmas season. I want to remind us all that new life can happen to each of us. Just listen to the stories surrounding Jesus' birth and you are caught up in the stories of new life. So let's enjoy the season, savor the grace, and remember that God sent Jesus to make our lives new. Don't settle for old, stale, and predictable. Look for God's grace and you will find it, even in the commercialized flood that sometimes engulfs the simpler and more profound truth of God in a manger.

He has always been the God of new life. He spoke light into darkness, order into chaos and life into dust. He turned slaves into conquerors and shepherds into kings. He took prisoners and made them commanders and fashioned housewives into generals. He took the impoverished widows and made them royalty. And called fig pickers to become His mouthpiece. He turned the number one persecutor into the number one evangelist and transformed unlearned fishermen into the leaders of world wide change. He has always been the God of new life! The God of new things!

Not only can we savor the month of December, we can also use it as a launching pad for the New Year. But just prior to the launch - think about this year. Reflect on the new things you have seen God do in your life. The new life He has already brought you. Think of the new people you have met. Think about the new experiences you have had. Think about the songs you have heard and learned. Think about the new material that has been written and that you

have read. Think about the new movies that have been released and that you have seen.

And just as this year, the New Year will also be filled with new things. New opportunities in your work place and business will come. New opportunities to enrich your family life will come. Many new things are sure to appear on the horizon relating to your career and your relationships.

New experiences will come in your spiritual walk as well. As you enter into the New Year, if you will open your heart to God and ask Him to show you what He wants you to do, who He wants you to be and where He wants to take you, He will do it. He will show you new things.

Look everywhere for the new things the Lord wants to show you. Stay alert. Listen to Him as He speaks new things to you. Watch for the new things He will do that will amaze you. Open your eyes to what the Lord has planned for you.

The Lord wants to show you so much newness in 2007.

- New friends
- New relationships
- New worship experiences
- New intellectual insights
- New revelations
- New dreams
- New hopes
- New goals

The New Year promises all kinds of new things. Athletes will set new goals and reach them. Teachers will see students acquire new knowledge. Preachers will preach new sermons. Families will move into new homes. Husbands and wives will reach new dimensions in their relationships.

What about you? Are you ready for God to guide you into new experiences?

When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, He used a word we translate as "blessed." As Christians, we have untold blessings and we live as blessed people.

Blessings require a "blesser." Our blesser is God, our Heavenly Father. Blessings require a "blessee." God's "blessees" are you and me. Blessings are given by the hand of a Supreme Being who knows what is best for us. Blessings, by definition, are for our good in the long run. Blessings are not always obvious as blessings until we adopt God's point of view. Blessings often come with struggles, instead of short run ease. Blessings are often hidden within difficulties. Blessings can be enjoyed not only when they are received, but especially when they are passed on to others.

"New and Improved!" That should be stamped across the forehead of every Believer! When we come to Christ, He makes us new and He cleanses us of all our sins. Incredibly, this grace can be "new every morning" because of God's faithfulness and transforming power. God's grace and power are given to us through His Holy Spirit. We are new and improved, and will continue to be that way until we are completely transformed to be like Jesus! (II Corinthians 3:18)

Heavenly Father, have your way with my heart, my will, my life and my time. I want to yield myself to you so that you can make me new and improved, so that I can experience new things in my life. Blessed Things! I don't want to be satisfied with where you have brought me. No, dear Father, I want to become more like Jesus today and each day of my life that follows. Thank you for your empowering grace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Scriptural References:

"You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you." (Isaiah 48:6 NIV)