

Pk-News
Jan. 2, 2021
“A Fresh Start.”

Happy New Year? A new year means we crossed a finish line. We lived out 365 days in the old year. If you look at the year as a chapter or scene in your life, the chapter is now complete. Well, it may not be complete, but time has run-out to complete anything in 2020. A new year can mean an opportunity to start fresh.

Starting fresh does not necessarily mean that you are going to start something new, but you get a fresh start at the journey of life. What area of your life calls for a fresh start?

God led the Israelites out of Egypt to enter the promised land, but the Israelites wondered in the wilderness for almost 40 years before they would move in and unpack. God gave them a fresh start after Moses died. It was then that God called Joshua to lead the people into the promised land.

Take a moment to read over this passage a couple of times.

Joshua 1:1-5 (NIV)

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites.

³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west.

⁵ No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

There are promises in this passage for Joshua and the people to believe. The first is that the promised land is a real place. It is the land that was promised to Moses. It is a territory ranging from the desert to Lebanon and from the Euphrates to the Great Sea on the West (v. 3-4). The point is that God's will is real for these Israelites. This is not just a fairy tale place that will never come to fruition in their lives.

The second promise is that if this generation of people would not cower to the obstacles and would march into this land, God would give it to them. These people need to do something different than the generation who came before them (v. 2-3). The generation before them felt that the challenge was too great, so they chose to wonder around the promised land. The people God called Joshua to lead, needed to get ready to march into the land. If they kept doing what the generation before them did, they would never enter the promised land. They had to do something different.

The third promise is that there will be challenges, but God would give them the victory because he would be with them and would never leave them. His presence assures them that God would lead them, protect them and provide for them (v. 5).

God was telling them that they get a fresh start on something they have worked on for 40 years. They needed the reminder that the promised land is a real place, they would need to do something different than the generation before them and they could trust God to be with them the whole way.

Let us get back to the question I asked earlier. What area of your life needs a fresh start? Is it a relationship? Is it a habit that needs broken? Is it a habit that needs developed? Apply the promises to your life from Joshua 1:1-5. God has a promise land for you. It is a real. It is his will in the area that you have struggled with over the past year.

You will need to do something different. If you get up the same time as last year, if you follow the same plan as last year, then expect the same results of last year. What do you need to do that is different than last year? What did you say you were going to do but you did not do it? What has God been telling you to do? Now start doing it.

Remember that like God promised to be with Joshua, he promises to be with you. You are not alone in your effort to walk in God's will for your life. You invited Jesus into your life and He is going to walk with you every step of everyday in this new year.

Remember, you get a fresh start. A fresh start at walking in God's will for you. Believe that he has his will for your life and the area of your life that you may struggle. Get some guidance from him and a trusted mentor on what you need to do to walk in his will for that area of your life. Finally believe with all your heart that God's presence will guide, protect and provide for you as you start fresh.

Love, Pk

Questions for the "Fresh Start."

What area of your life do you want to change in 2021?

What would the will of God look like for this area of your life?

What do you need to do to work towards his will in this area of your life?

What is the greatest fear you face to do his will in this area of your life?

What prayer can you pray that expresses your fear to God and your invitation to allow him to help you accomplish his will in this area of your life?

Announcements:

Wednesday's Kids Clubs and Bible Study will start on January 20 at 6:30 PM

Sign-Up for Baptisms on our church App. Download the App from our website-cfc818.org