

## New Beginnings January 2025

It is a New Year 2025. A New Beginning. People say this year “I am going to lose weight, exercise more, read my Bible more, etc”. However, most fail very quickly.

What is a new beginning? The meaning of a new beginning can vary from person to person. It is a fresh start. It is a chance to do something differently. It can apply to any aspect of life such as relationships, lifestyles, jobs, goals, spirituality, etc.

Why does God give new beginnings? It is another chance to begin again, to try again, to hope again. To watch God do something we never expected. God restores and changes and is always doing new things working behind the scenes in our lives to bring about new beginnings. Where the world sees failure, God sees the potential for something new.

Memory verse Lamentations 3:22-24 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

God’s love NEVER ceases. God’s mercy NEVER ceases. We are given new mercies every morning. What is mercy? Mercy is compassion or forgiveness shown to someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm. It is performed out of a desire to relieve suffering motivated by compassion. God’s mercy is shown through the offer of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross.

What are some characteristics of mercy? It is undeserved. It is unconditional. It is patient. It puts people above all.

How can we show mercy? Be patient with others. Help people who are hurting. Give others second chances. Do good to those who hurt you. Be kind to those who offend you. Choose love over rules.

What does the Bible say about new beginnings? Isaiah 43:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ezekiel 36:26, Ephesians 4:22-24, Jeremiah 29:11, Revelation 21:5, Proverbs 3:5-6, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Psalm 40:3

So no matter what the new is for you this year: new job, new relationship, loss of relationship, new marriage, end of marriage, have a baby, lose a loved one, etc. REMEMBER God loves you and God is with you every step of the way. John 3:16, Psalm 16:8, Psalm 118, John 14:16-17. God will provide for you. Philippians 4:19, Luke 12:24-36  
Other believers in Christ are here to help and pray. REMEMBER God’s phone number Psalm 51:15