



## The Promises of a Fresh Start January 21 & 22, 2023

### **Matthew 6:22-23 (TPT)**

"The eyes of your spirit allow revelation-light to enter into your being. If your heart is unclouded, the light floods in! But if your eyes are focused on money, the light cannot penetrate and darkness takes its place. How profound will be the darkness within you if the light of truth cannot enter!"

### **Zechariah 10:6 (MSG)**

"I'll put muscle in the people of Judah; I'll save the people of Joseph. I know their pain and will make them good as new. They'll get a fresh start, as if nothing had ever happened. And why? Because I am their very own God, I'll do what needs to be done for them."

### **Hosea 14:5 (MSG)**

I will make a fresh start with Israel. He'll burst into bloom like a crocus in the spring. He'll put down deep oak tree roots...

### **Psalms 145:14 (MSG)**

GOD gives a hand to those down on their luck, gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.

## **How to Get a Fresh START:**

**1**

**S – Stop making excuses for not getting started.**

**The biggest barrier to my successes are my own excuses.**

- **Excuse #1: I don't have what it takes to reach my dreams.**

### **Judges 6:15 (ICB)**

But Gideon answered, "Pardon me, Lord. How can I save Israel? My family group is the weakest in Manasseh. And I am the least important member of my family."

### **Judges 6:16a (ICB)**

The Lord answered him, "I will be with you..."

- **Excuse #2: I am a failure because of my past.**

### **Isaiah 43:18-19 (TEV)**

But the LORD says, “Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there.

### **Proverbs 28:13 (LB)**

A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

- **Excuse #3: I just can’t control everything.**

**Control the controllables and trust God for the rest.**

### **Proverbs 24:10 (CEV)**

Don't give up and be helpless in times of trouble.

- **Excuse #4: I don’t know what the future holds.**

### **Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LB)**

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.



**T – Take inventory of what I have.**

**How? Ask these 3 questions:**

- **What are my assets?**

### **Colossians 2:10 (LB)**

...you have everything when you have Christ, and you are filled with God through your union with Christ. He is the highest Ruler, with authority over every other power.

- **What have I learned in the past year?**

### **Galatians 3:4 (ICB)**

You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted? I hope not!

### **2 Timothy 3:14 (NCV)**

But you should continue following the teachings you learned. You know they are true, because you trust those who taught you.

- **Who can help me?**

### **Proverbs 15:22 (GNT)**

Get all the advice you can, and you will succeed; without it you will fail.

# 3

## A – Act in faith.

### **Matthew 9:29b (NIV)**

“According to your faith it will be done to you...”

**Acting in faith happens when I do something I can't do by my own power.**

### **Proverbs 16:9 (LB)**

We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.

### **Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)**

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**What faith goals will I set for my life this year?**

# 4

## R – Refocus my mind.

### **Ephesians 4:23 (AMP)**

...and be continually renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude] ...

**How?**

- Listen more to God's Word than the world.

### **Psalm 1:1-3 (GNT)**

Happy are those who reject the advice of evil people, who do not follow the example of sinners or join those who have no use for God. Instead, they find joy in obeying the Law of the LORD, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream, that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.

- Pay attention to what I'm thinking about.

### **Proverbs 4:23 (GNT)**

Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

# 5

## T – Trust that God knows what He is doing.

### **Proverbs 3:5 (TPT)**

Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.

### **Jeremiah 18:4 (ICB)**

He was making a pot from clay. But something went wrong with it. So the potter used that clay to make another pot. He used his hands to shape the pot the way that he wanted it to be.

### **3 Realities About our Fresh Start from Jeremiah:**

- **Sometimes** things don't work out the way I intended.
- **Starting over** is part of God's process.
- God uses the **same** clay, and reshapes it.

#### **Jeremiah 18:5-6 (ICB)**

"Then God said to Jeremiah 'can I not do with you as the potter does? Just as the potter works the clay in his hand, so are you in my hand and I am working on you."

**I'm not the potter, I am the clay.**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (LB)**

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!

#### **Psalms 51:10 (MSG)**

God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

#### **How to Get a Fresh START:**

**Stop** making excuses for not getting started.

**Take** inventory of what I have.

**Act** in faith.

**Refocus** my mind.

**Trust** that God knows what He is doing.



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