

Make a Fresh Start

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic
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As we start a new year, many of us want to wear something new. We would rather celebrate special occasions with something new rather than with our old clothes. Similarly, during the past year, we all had setbacks, failures or mistakes. With the start of a new year, we should leave all these behind (Isaiah 43:18). Let us not allow these to enslave us to the point that we do not get to enjoy God's beautiful blessings for us. Let us resolve to move forward, make a fresh start, and a new beginning with God. He is more interested in our future than in our past. He has big plans for us. Let us all start now to wear the new clothes of righteousness (Rom. 6; 2 Cor. 17-21).

How do we make a fresh S.T.A.R.T. ? We should

1. STOP making excuses. STOP blaming others.

- 1.1. Let us stop seeing ourself as a victim of persecution. Nobody can ruin our life without our permission. We have free will to make choices and decisions.
- 1.2. We have so many talents but we make excuses from letting God use us (2 Tim. 1:7). Moses made excuses (Exo. 4:10).
- 1.3. God has chosen each one of us to do His will and His mission. Gideon was set apart by God for a high calling (Judg. 6:12-16).
- 1.4. Zecharia doubted the good news that they would have a child in their old age; he lost the power to speak until the promise took place (Lk. 1:18-20).
- 1.5. Let us be honest and face up to the problem, so that we can get another chance and a fresh start (Prov. 28:13).
- 1.6. We should stop blaming others. We must take responsibility and do not pass it to others. We will never have success if we do not accept responsibility (Gal. 6:5).

2. TAKE an inventory of our life.

- 2.1. Our experiences shape us – our personal and family life, education, painful experiences, and spiritual journey. What have we learned from these so that we do

not repeat them? Let us choose to learn from failure (Gal. 3:4).

- 2.2. Let us take stock of our assets: health, family, friends, and community. Our support groups are ready to help us. The Lord always walks with us.

3. ACT in faith.

- 3.1. To change our circumstances takes faith (Mk. 11:24; Mt 9:29; Jas. 2:17).
- 3.2. Let us do something positive to change our situation (Rom. 10). Real success is built on failure.
- 3.3. We must realize something beautiful will be done if only we turn away from the past and pray to God.

4. REFOCUS our thoughts.

- 4.1. We must change the way we think and keep our focus on Jesus; let us think of what is above, not what is on earth (Col. 3:1-2; Prov. 4:23; Heb. 12:1). The way we think determines how we feel and act. Let us think about whatever is true, pure, just, honorable ... (Phil. 4:8).
- 4.2. How do we let go of memories and things? First, we should confess. Then, we must focus and meditate on God's Word (Ps. 1).

5. TRUST God to help us succeed.

- 5.1. We cannot succeed on our own. We must trust in the Lord, not on our own intelligence (Prov. 3:5-6; Ps 37:3; Jer.17:7-8).

Conclusion:

Jesus has the power to give us a fresh start (Zech. 4:6). He wants us to have a whole new life, not just to turn a new leaf. Therefore, let the Lord drive our life.

Reflection:

1. What do you need to confess so you can let go of the past?
2. What have you learned from your experiences?
3. What do you resolve to do for 2022?

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Tags: #Righteousness, #Repentance, Faith