

A CLEAN NEW START

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.
Old things have passed away and behold all things are made new.”
2 Corinthians 5:17*

I’ve heard many people make the statement *“I’ll be glad when this year is over and the new year is in.”* This statement generally comes from those who have had a difficult year and are looking forward to a “clean new start” in the New Year. Or, maybe you’ve heard the statement *“I swear this year is going to be better!”* Or, you’ve heard something similar. Whatever the statement, the desire is for something better.

I’ve also heard the statement: *“Start like you want to finish.”* So let me ask a few questions: How do you want to finish this year? The month isn’t over yet. There’s still time to get a good start going. Why not give some thought to the *“releasing”* of behavior patterns that have not served you well? Why not replace the *“old habit”* with the start of a new and better habit that will produce more harmony, peace, joy, and love in your life? Why not treat yourself to a clean new start by releasing attitudes that keep you in a stuck place? Why not let the grudges you’ve held against someone or some organization go and give thanks for the experience and the learned lesson? Why not free yourself of attachments that create situations of bondage and open yourself up to greater and grander good? Why not wash the old clothes you hardly wear and give them away to someone who can fully appreciate having a change of clothes? Why not take the first step toward clearing out that closet, or drawer, or basement, or garage to make room for your desires to be fulfilled? Why not start going to church or connecting with others who are on a spiritual path of evolvment on a regular basis and begin the process of renewal and growth as you receive spiritual guidance and inspiration? Why not open the doors to financial increase through the practice of a proven spiritual method of consistent tithing and/or giving? Why not put *“first things first”* by starting your day giving thanks for the blessings you have already received and for the blessings you are about to receive?

Perhaps these questions will stimulate you and get your energy flowing in the direction of making a clean new start that can be the basis for a whole year of overflowing blessings and next year you’ll be able to say: *“What a great year I had in 2008!”*