

Newness of Life

Stepping into the newness of life is something that we all want to experience. We get tired of the same ole things we've always done. Sometimes we say that we will begin to do things differently, especially when it is the new year, yet find ourselves making the changes for a new life very slowly, if at all.

So how can we truly step into the newness of life? What does that really look like? It begins with one thought at a time, one action at a time. The hardest part is making the choice to make the change for a better you, a better life. Allow yourself to think the best of yourself. This is not about leaving God out of the equation; it's about seeing yourself as God sees you.

When Job was in the darkness of the soul, he chose to see that life could be better. He was sure that God would not leave him in his predicament but would make it better. When Joseph was in the dungeon, he knew His God would come through and bring justice. He saw himself out of that prison, and it happened. When David was running from Saul, he knew he was destined for the throne. It didn't happen overnight, but it did happen. Though you may not be where you would like at this moment, you are certainly not where you used to be. There is a new life that awaits you. God wants you to see yourself as He sees you. You are mighty and strong. You are loved and treasured. Just take one day at a time, one thing at a time. When you mess up again, repent and let it go. When you do good, applaud your accomplishment. You may say, "But what I did was so small. I see others making great strides, yet mine seem like baby steps." Again, I say, be proud of every small decision to make a change that leads you into a new life.

We rejoice at a new life coming into this earth. But remember that a baby's growth in the mother's womb was a gradual process. And when that baby is first born it can do nothing to help itself, but it is fed and nurtured. Eventually that baby smiles, giggles, wiggles, turns over, crawls, pulls up, and begins to walk – but it didn't happen overnight. So, give yourself some grace to grow into your newness of life. Romans 6:4 says, "For we are buried together with him by baptism into death: that, as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life." You were created in the image of Christ so that you could walk in the newness of life. So, rejoice that this newness of life is right here at your fingertips. You can apprehend it! The apostle Paul wrote this, in Philippians 3:13, "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended. But one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and stretching forth myself to those that are before." He was letting you know that you can apprehend if you will let go of the old and reach out for the newness of life. It is yours for the taking.

Dear Jesus,

I pray that they see themselves as you see them. You loved them so much that you promised to come to them when they were in need. They need you now to walk hand-in-hand with them and lead them into a new life that they never knew could exist in them. May they believe in themselves, that they can do anything with your help. I pray Lord, that they take courage and walk those baby steps until they can take great strides as they desire. You are not disappointed in them, not at all, you are proud of their every small accomplishment because you are in the little things. In fact, you make those little things great!

I pray that they will start their journey today and not give up when they feel defeated. You are right here holding onto them. I pray that they will know how much you care for them and that nothing goes unnoticed. Yes, you record it all. So now Lord, tell them that they are strong and mighty, tell them that you love them, and tell them that you are proud of them. I know that you will be there with them every step of the way. We love you Jesus! Amen!

Dr. Nina Gardner

The LORD remembers us and will bless us; he will bless the people... (Psalm 115:12 GNB)

When anyone is in Christ, it is a whole new world. The old things are gone; suddenly, everything is new! (2 Corinthians 5:17 ERV)



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