

A New Year!

Another new year. Hopefully a year that will find us free of Covid, inflation, strange / illnesses, short staffing, closures, rampant shootings and all the other ills visited upon us in the last few years. It seems like it is always something. When there is a New Year, we wish for a lot of different things. Some want to go on a diet to gain back a body image they once enjoyed, others wish for a mate, others make plans to finally travel to far off places they have always wanted to see. Our wishes are as varied as our imaginations. God gives us the gift of a new day. Every day we can begin again, a forgiven people. A chance to start over. If necessary, God will give us this gift every day. For me there is always the desire to be better, to do better, to be pleasing to God more. My wish for a New Year is simply to be closer to my forgiving Lord, to listen more and to ask for a humble heart. When I fall short, he forgives me and gives me another and yet another chance. His mercies are endless. My prayers aren't just wishes for a new year but every night I thank him for the day and pray I do better tomorrow. Every morning I thank God for another day and another chance to get things right. As Christians we don't have to wait until December 31st to make promises and seek to do better, as Christians we have that chance every morning that God gives us.

Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. All I have needed thy hand has provided—Great is thy faithfulness Lord unto me!

Great is thy faithfulness written by Thomas Chisholm/W.M. Runyan

Lamentations 3:22-24 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of each day and for the chance to begin anew, for the chance to get it right. Strengthen us when we try, forgive us when we fail. Lord, we ask that you be with those in our midst who quietly struggle, for those who mourn, for those who face illness, may they feel your love and strength. Be with those who are suffering in Haiti and Ukraine, comfort them and give them your strength. Be with our country Lord, we thank you that we are not at war in some far-off land but ask that you be with us and may we be at peace with each other. May this be the year that our schools are safe, our cities are calm, our churches and synagogues and temples are safe havens, and we truly are as one nation accepting and tolerant of each other. Be with our church may it be your church as we seek your path. Be with our Pastor and bless his ministry as we give him our support and gratitude for all he does. Be with his family and with our families give them your love and peace. Be with our staff and leaders, guide and protect them. We ask these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we have also forgiven our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one." Amen

Lord's Prayer from Study Bible, New International Version copyrighted 1995

Grace Epperson