

Opening scripture

"Behold I make all things new"

Revelation 21:5

Prayers for the New Year

Heavenly Father, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the past year's blessings. Thank You for Your faithfulness, Your love and Your constant presence in our lives. We acknowledge Your sovereignty over the days gone by and the days yet to come. Amen

Heavenly Father, as we face both known and unknown challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in You. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that You are our rock and our fortress. Amen

Lord, we look towards You, our hope, our peace and our comfort in this New Year. As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom. Shine Your light upon our path so that we may walk in Your ways and make choices that align with Your will. Help us to seek first Your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us. Amen

Hymn

verses from New Every Morning (John Keble 1822)

New every morning is the love
Our waking and uprising prove,
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us as we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiven;
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Only O Lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and every day,
To live more nearly as we pray.

Reflection

This hymn is a lovely reminder that it is God who safely brings us to the new beginning of another day. The hymn mentions new sins forgiven and it is reassuring to know that if we say we are sorry to God for the things we have got wrong, then he is willing to wipe the slate clean and give us a fresh new beginning. It is also comforting to know that it is never too late for God to give us another chance. As Jesus hung on the cross, the thief dying next to him turned to Jesus and admitted he

had got things wrong. Jesus' immediate response was to tell him "This day you will be with me in Paradise". It was not too late for a new beginning, even for a dying thief.

Prayer

As a new year begins we come to You Lord and ask for Your blessing. We ask that You will give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts and love to fill our lives. Thank You for the plans You have for us in this new year. We await with anticipation to see all You will do! *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future"*. Amen (Jeremiah 29:11)

Some Bible verses about new beginnings

1 Peter 1:3 - *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"*.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new is here!"*

Ezekiel 11:9 - *"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove their hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh"*.

John 1:12 - *"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God".*

Lamentations 3:22-23 - *"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".*

Song as Prayer

As you read the song below, turn the words into a prayer, thanking God for the new beginning he has given you, for his love and forgiveness and the joy that can now fill your heart.

I am a New Creation - (Dave Bilborough 1965)

I am a new creation
No more in condemnation,
Here in the grace of God I stand.
My heart is overflowing,
My love just keeps on growing,
Here in the grace of God I stand.
And I will praise You Lord,
Yes, I will praise You Lord,
And I will sing of all that You have done.
A joy that knows no limit,
A lightness in my spirit,
Here in the grace of God I stand.

Final Blessing

Heavenly Father we ask that You will bless us with joy and happiness in the coming year. Fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing You and walking in Your ways as we live in Your presence each day. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, and those whom we love, now and for evermore. Amen.



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**New Year
New Beginnings**