

December 28, 2014

Mostly Personal...

Loved Ones,

We are fast approaching the beginning of a new year. I've often said there is nothing magical about the turning of a page on a calendar, yet there is something mystical, if not magical, about the idea of new beginnings.

I personally think the concept of starting over with a fresh slate is one of God's greatest gifts to mankind. I believe every new moon, every Sabbath, the seasons, and holidays are all gauges to remind us that God is the author of new beginnings!

Most of us want a fresh start with our time, talent, and treasure. That's why the Year of Jubilee was so important in Israel. That 50th year was not forced redistribution of wealth as some have implied. It was a time when Israel reaffirmed their trust in God, and everyone was given a new chance. It wasn't a case of the wealthy losing their profits. It was an opportunity to reset every life that had been molested and manipulated by the enemy. It was one of the earliest understandings of grace.

The prophet Joel tapped into this idea as he wrote the heart of God – "I will restore what the enemy has stolen. I will replace what the devourer has consumed. Furthermore, it shall come to pass that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh! Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Upon all who call on the Name of the Lord, I will give salvation!" (Joel 2)

As 2015 comes roaring in this week, allow the Lord to roar in as well. The Lord has promised, "When the enemy comes in, The Spirit, moving like a flood, will raise up a barrier against him."

I love you,
Pastor Stephen