



Destiny Center
Sunday, March 4, 2012
THE NEW Series 2

Isaiah 43:19 NLT – *"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."*

Session 2 - "A New Life"

The CHOICE IS YOURS! You get to choose what your life will be, no matter what life throws at you. Even when the worst events happen, you have a choice on how to respond. This is no more evident than the devastating events that took place this past Wednesday morning in Harrisburg. Even in the midst of losing everything, the outlook on life is NOT to curl up and die, but the popular choice is to believe for the best. They could choose depression and giving up, but most are choosing hope and a new beginning. This is exactly what leads to a new life!

Colossians 3:1-10 – *"¹Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ²Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. ⁵So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him."*

A New Life REQUIRES Changes...

The steps toward a new life, no matter what area, must be met with a plan to make changes. When it comes to the new life Christ is extending to you, we must submit to the changes He desires to make in our lives. These changes are NOT to force us into a lifestyle that is gloomy and sad and boring; this new life is EXCITING and JOYFUL and FULL OF HOPE! Make up your mind to make the changes and allow God to make some changes along the way!

1. Change your HEART – fleshly desires & cravings

Romans 6:5-7 KJV – *"⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin."*

Illustration - A Sunday School Teacher asked a little girl in her class: "Do you think you have a New Heart?" "Yes I know so," replied the child. "What makes you so sure?" asked the teacher. The girl responded simply, "Because I love the things I used to hate, and hate what I used to love."

2. Change your MIND – thoughts

When you plan to make changes to your life, you cannot think the same way. The rich don't think like the poor. Successful business owners think differently than those doing the manual labor for them. The healthy think differently than the sick. When on a diet, you MUST change the way you think about food!

Romans 12:1-2 NLT – *"¹And so, dear brothers and sisters,^[a] I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ²Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."*

3. Change your CLOTHES – Put off the old man and put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27 NLT – *"²⁶For you are all children^[a] of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes."*

Being a child of God means that you no longer do the old things, speak the old things, or LOOK like the old self. God doesn't want to just change your desires and thoughts, He wants to change the way you look. SMILE!
SHINE!

4. Change your LIFE – When you allow God to change your life, your life becomes hidden in Christ. Your past...

II Corinthians 5:17 NLT – *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"*

Real life change begins when YOU begin. Begin walking in the NEW LIFE Christ died for you to possess. He's offering you everything you ever wanted. You don't have to live with the old ways. He has a new plan for you!

God is extending one of the greatest opportunities every given to us...an opportunity to trade all of the old for NEW! "I'm trading my sorrows..."

Illustration – A man once bought a new radio, brought it home, placed it on the refrigerator, plugged it in, turned it to WSM in Nashville (home of the Grand Ole Opry), and then pulled all the knobs off! He had already tuned in all he ever wanted or expected to hear. Some people's lives get in a rut because they have given into the notion that "what has been, will always be." But God has other plans!!! Stay open to newness. Stay open to change.

Colossians 1:21-22 NIV - *"²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—"*

When you recognize your sin, ask God to forgive you and invite Him in your heart, He washes you from your sin, cleans you up, and makes you free from guilt and shame. He's offering you a chance at a new life...you just need to move forward and receive it!

Prayer

I want to invite everyone who is looking for a new life, a second chance or a new start to come stand around the front. This does not save you. Salvation comes when we 1) confess our sin, 2) ask God into our heart, 3) let His Spirit fill your life, and 4) get baptized. As you are coming forward, feel free to in your own words, ask Jesus to take away your sin. Go ahead...confess it.

"Lord, today as we seek You, we ask that You would remove the barrier that hinder us from the necessary changes You need to make in our lives. Remove stress, help each one to truly believe in themselves through Your help, remove the lack of confidence, give them courage to clear the clutter and motivation to commit to the changes they desire. You are Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us confirm the commitment to our New Life in You. In Jesus' name! AMEN!"