

New Beginnings

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It's fun to play with all the brand-new possibilities open to us on January 1. Go jogging on January 1, and you've exercised every day this year. You can come to breakfast and truthfully announce, "I'm so hungry, I feel as if I haven't eaten since last year!" Get through lunch without eating potato chips or a candy bar, and this year reflects a whole new healthy and perfectly-kept diet regime. On January 1, at least for some time, you've never yelled at the kids, forgotten to floss, thrown your dirty clothes on the bathroom floor, nor have forgotten to read the Bible all year!

On January 1 our whole life can be transformed. For one day at least, all our good intentions can be jump-started, and all our bad habits can be unplugged. At least for a few hours (or minutes?), the year is a perfect reflection of our best self.

But January 1 is followed inevitably by January 2 and January 3. Soon we will opt for staying in a cozy bed a few more minutes rather than plunging out into the cold for that jog. Pretty soon candy wrappers will start appearing in our desk drawer again. Pretty soon, we will surely get aggravated enough at a bad driver or frustrating situation to have unsanctified thoughts. Before we know it, our socks are back on the bathroom floor, our dental floss is gathering dust, and we fall asleep before we can even get the Bible open.

For all but a few of us, most New Year's resolutions get packed away with the last of the Christmas decorations. The problem with most of our resolutions is that we resolve to make changes in our lifestyles, but miss restructuring our lives and changing the paradigms by which we live.

The best resolution we can make can be found in the Gospel of Luke when 12 year old Jesus answered his parents as to why he acted as he did, "Didn't you know I would be about my Father's business?"

The ultimate New Year's resolution does not challenge us to cut fat grams, or quit smoking or get to aerobics class twice a week. The ultimate resolution a Christian can make is to make it our business to be a part of God's business.

What's God's business? God's business is transformation. An electrical transformer takes high voltage and transforms it into energy that we can use in our everyday lives. Without

a transformer, there could be no light in the darkness. At Bethlehem, God came to us and gave us Jesus, who transforms in His life the love and power of God into an energy that we can use and experience in our lives every day.

A fresh New Year lies unblemished before us. Our life and commitment to making God's business our business can help the love of God through Christ transform the world.
