



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Stepping into the **NEW**

Series preached from December 31, 2023 to January 21, 2024

God spoke to me, clearly, about what is coming...

YOU SAY: "Is that for the new year?"

ANSWER: Sure!

But I believe it has to do with LIFE in general.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

NOTICE: For a child of God...living in the NEW should be a lifestyle. It shouldn't be something that happens periodically.

"Become" – becoming...not just ONE TIME...but a constant, everyday NEWNESS...increase!

We should live in the NEW of life!

Isaiah 43:19 (prophecy concerning the church) – "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

God is doing NEW...BIG...AWESOME things amongst the church...His body.

BELOVED: God is NOT into the "same-ole-same-ole" mindset! It is NOT His system! He is ALWAYS a God of increase...NEW!

Deuteronomy 28:62 – "And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God."

BASICALLY: You used to be BIG...you will be made small...because you didn't obey the Voice of the Lord and are living under the curse!

PROBLEM: Well, that sounds too good to be true! I don't know if I can believe that!

YOU MAY SAY: Today? The way the economy is...with what is going on?

ANSWER: Yes!

Habakkuk 1:5 – "Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you."

GOD'S MINDSET is that what He is planning on doing...is SOOOO GOOD, SOOOO BIG that it would be TOOOO hard for us to believe!

BELOVED: When we begin looking at the things God did in the Word...Old and New Covenant...He chooses to do things in the weirdest and craziest way possible. As a matter of fact...NEW WAYS!

It would take us quite a while to show all of them...I just thought of the life of Elisha and how God chose to do things.

2 Kings 4 – The widow who was completely broke and only had a small pot of oil left in her house. God's way? Go demand or ask for a bunch of empty vessels from your neighbors and she poured out of the original container until ALL the vessels were full!

2 Kings 5 – Naaman came with leprosy...Elisha told him to go dip in the Jordan River seven times. He came up clean.

2 Kings 6 – A borrowed ax head fell in the river...answer? Throw a stick in the water...the ax head floated.

2 Kings 7 – The whole nation of Israel was surrounded and starving to death. God sends four lepers to the enemies camp to see if they would have any food...God scared the enemy away by making them hear a massive army coming. The lepers ate...all of Israel ate.

REMEMBER: Except for the ONE guy who said, "It will never happen."

BELOVED: There are NEW and GREATER things that God has for you that ALL HE IS ASKING for is for you to believe!

BELOVED: Will you...can you believe?

Breaking Barriers

It is interesting how history is FULL of people who changed history by stepping into new REALMS...it is called BREAKING BARRIERS!

There are many to mention...but a couple are:

1.) **Roger Bannister and the four minute mile.**

The record for running the mile had stayed at 4.13 for years (set in 1945) and it was thought impossible for ANYONE to break the four minute mile.

They felt the heart would BURST if anyone did it.

They felt it was as impossible as jumping from a skyscraper and landing safely.

HOWEVER: In 1954 Roger Bannister ran the four minute mile and within that year...many others joined him. They just needed to see it done.

2.) **Chuck Yeager and breaking the sound barrier.**

Faster than the speed of sound...also known as Mach 1 (767 mph).

They had tried it many times...but as they got closer to the speed of sound the vehicle would begin shaking violently. Which would cause them to stop the effort.

Finally, in 1947 they decided to go for it!

Just before he hit Mach 1...the vehicle shook violently...but when he pressed in and the SONIC BOOM hit...it was like he was driving on ice. Smooth sailing.

NOTE: I want to point out...often when you are stepping into the NEW...it will seem like you are being shaken in pieces...but you will be glad you stuck with it.

ILLUSTRATION: One of my favorite movies is the movie "**Almost Heroes**". Starring Chris Farley and Matthew Perry as explorers in early America who were trying to make it to the Pacific Ocean...ultimately they got beat by Lewis and Clark. The reason I bring it up is to not how in order to BREAK BARRIERS...they had to take risks! They faced battles and hardships...the key was DON'T GIVE UP!

BELOVED: God is ready for you to BREAK INTO the NEW...BREAK SOME BARRIERS that bring you forth into the best God has for you!

Breaking barriers? Moses broke a barrier that stood for 425 years. He did things that no one else had ever done!

Exodus 7 – Jannes and Jambres went against Moses...Moses won!

YOU SAY: But he was chosen!

1 Peter 2:9 – We are a CHOSEN generation!

QUESTION: What do you think we are chosen to do?

We are chosen to break barriers! New blessings, new vitality and health, new anointing, and new opportunities.

Luke 5:39 – “No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.”
The OLD wine seems better...more desirable...more flavorful...but if you don't make the NEW, you will miss the better.

Too many times Christians are stopped from the NEW because they are stuck in the OLD. They like their old way of living...their old supply...their old ways of thinking and don't feel like working towards the NEW.

- * My old ways of saving and spending are better than tithing and sowing.
- * My old ways of depending on medicine and doctors are better than trusting in God for healing.
- * My old ways of life are more familiar than the NEW...now matter what comes down the road.

BELOVED: God wants us, His children, to start expecting to step into the NEW...to break BARRIERS...to experience HIS BEST.

Talking about the NEW

When we talk about stepping into the NEW...what are we talking about? What can we expect?

BELOVED: *Here is a picture of what I am talking about.*

This is what we need to expect...from here on out!

1.) NEW Blessings!

Increase and more and more!

Psalm 115:14 – “The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.”
YES...in all things...but this also included finances.

Leviticus reveals to us something that God put into motion for His children...the YEAR OF JUBILEE.

The fiftieth year (after seven sevens) was the year of Jubilee.

Economic, cultural, environmental and communal reset...when the land and the people reset and all is set free and restored...releasing debts and return of property. A NEW start!

Part of the blessing of this year is in chapter 26...

Leviticus 26:10 – “And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new.”

(AMP) – “And you shall eat the [abundant] old store of produce long kept, and clear out the old [to make room] for the new.”

NOTICE: It was okay before...but nowhere near the NEW that is coming. MAKE room for the new!

YOU SAY: Well, Pastor Thad, that is Old Covenant...we don't live under that anymore...we live in real life.

Luke 4:16-21

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 **To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

Vs. 19 **(AMP)** – “To proclaim the accepted and acceptable year of the Lord [the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound].”

(PASSION) – “I have come to share the message of Jubilee, for the time of God's great acceptance has begun.”

“Acceptable year of the Lord” = The year of Jubilee!

Jubilee is NO LONGER a time...it is a person!

THINK ABOUT IT: So many of those people in that synagogue missed the NEW because they didn't make room for it. Didn't accept it!

JERRY SAVELLE: “To fail to increase is a violation of your covenant with God.” Galatians 3:29

2.) **NEW Vitality, Health and Strength.**

It is not a time for God's children to slow down and lose energy...lose strength!

Isaiah 40:28-31

28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his under standing.

29 **He giveth power to the faint;** and to them that **have no might he increaseth strength.**

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

31 But they that wait upon the LORD **shall renew their strength;** they shall mount up with wings as eagles; **they shall run, and not be weary;** and **they shall walk, and not faint.**

When the children of Israel walked out of Egypt, there was NOT ONE FEEBLE person among them...no one was weak in any way, shape or form (Psalm 105:37).

When Joshua walked into the promised land at 70 to 80 years of age he declared, “I am as strong today as the day that Moses called me!” (Joshua 14:11).

Psalm 92:13-14

13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Jeremiah 30:17 – “For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.”

Joel 2:25 – “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.”

Psalm 18:29,33,36

29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

33 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.

36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

3.) **NEW Anointing and Power.**

The new wine is the best way to describe this point.

A fresh outpouring of the power and anointing of God.

Acts 2 – The early church enjoyed that NEW WINE and operated in new power and anointing.

“New wine” – strongest and the sweetest...not perhaps the newest.

Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Healings, gifting and power over the enemy will be NEW and FRESH!

Ephesians 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

BELOVED: How often have we heard about Jesus’ FIRST MIRACLE being the turning of water into WINE. John 2:7-9

WAY too many Christians have made it about the importance of WINE...

When it is clear that Jesus was making a picture of the NEW WINE...HIS WINE!

NOT THE OLD WINE (old ways of doing things), but the NEW WINE (fresh ways of operating in the spirit...better way of operating).

Isaiah 10:27 – “And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.”

4.) **NEW Opportunities.**

1 Corinthians 16:9 – “For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.”

These opportunities may be for seed, for service, for RISKS...but they will show up...the question is will you say YES and step through.

- * David showed up to the battle field clothed only with an opportunity.
- * Children of Israel showed up to Jericho with only an opportunity.
- * Solomon took his father’s thrown having an opportunity.

BELOVED: What opportunities have you left unfulfilled?

THOMAS EDISON: “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10 – “Whatever your hands find to do...do with all your might....”

Bill Johnson uses the word RISKS a lot...taking risks! That is making the most of opportunities.

QUOTE: Unbelief is safe because it takes NO RISKS and almost always gets what it expects.

That is where most Christians live their lives...no risks...not taking advantage of opportunities.

5.) **New Beginnings.**

BELOVED: Start where you are! Quit waiting!

Quit waiting for everything to change and step in to new opportunities.

ILLUSTRATION: You are headed to DISNEY WORLD in Florida...paid up and ready to roll! You hop into your car and head on out...

- * You start the wrong directions...and get headed west.
- * You are now in ILLINOIS...what do you do?
- * You drive into IOWA...what now? Gonna start over? Change course?
- * You cross into NEBRASKA...WYOMING. When are you going to change directions? Start over?
- * You cross the state line into Idaho! Are you getting any closer to your destination?
- * Washington?

BELOVED: Unless you start over...you will NEVER make it.

It is time to quit holding on to your steering wheel and being obstinate about your path...it is time for NEW BEGINNINGS! Start over!

Here is the Key to the New

You may be thinking...well, I know I am born again! Why is my life full of the same ole, same ole. I am not tapping into anything new at all!
What's up with that?

Luke 5:37-39

- 37 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins.
38 New wine must be stored in new wineskins.

BASICALLY: Old wineskins had been stretched to the limits (due to the fermented wine inside) or become brittle due to age...so putting new wine in them would just leak out...ours would begin leaking as the fermenting process took place.

The wineskin had to be made or made new!

BELOVED: What I am saying...God is saying...many people are trying to tap into God's new...but **they are refusing to change themselves.**

Change their lives...change their actions...change what they are doing.
They are dependent upon how they have always done things.

Ephesians 4:24 – "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in **righteousness and true holiness.**"

Colossians 3:10 – "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Isaiah 48:6 – "Thou hast heard, see all this; and will not ye declare it? I have shewed thee new things from this time, even hidden things, and thou didst not know them."

God will show us what we need to do to step into the NEW.

UNDERSTAND: This process (of new wine skins) isn't about getting what we want...but becoming what we need to be for the new!

1.) Fasting

Matthew 9:16,17 (NASB)

- 16 "But no one puts a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch pulls away from the garment, and a worse tear results.
17 "Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."

NOTICE: Jesus is dealing with new wine in old wineskins.

HOWEVER: The context is talking about fasting.

Matthew 9:14 – "Then the disciples of John *came to Him, asking, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?""

As long as Jesus was there His disciples didn't need to fast...but when He was gone, if they **were going to step into the NEW**...they would **need to renew their old wineskin!**

"Fasting" – stepping away from foods or other comforts to communicate with God.

NOTE: Fasting isn't fasting (spiritual sense) if you just are not eating...you need to spend that time feeding your spirit.

ILLUSTRATION: You are an owner of a large factory...machines running constantly, people clamoring all of the time...lots of noise. But you have an important announcement to make to all of the people on the floor. Two scenarios...

a.) You leave all the machines running...allow the people to continue chit-chat on the floor... and try to speak over them.

QUESTION: How many would really hear you?

b.) You stop all the machines...you dim the lights...silence the people...quiet the floor...THEN speak!

QUESTION: What is the likely-hood they hear and comprehend you better?

BELOVED: Your minds are an amazingly complex machine...that is always going (sights, sounds, thoughts, smells, etc.)...fasting is an effort to combat the distractions...quiet everything down. Silences the clamor and helps you listen.

Fasting helps you prepare yourself...equip yourself...give you a WORD of direction.

Mark 9:29 – (after disciples tried to cast out demon and then Jesus did) “And He said to them, “This kind cannot come out by anything except prayer.”

OBVIOUSLY: Jesus didn't fast nor pray before commanding the demon out of the boy. But Jesus HAD fasted and prepared Himself for that NEW...that circumstance!

Think about this...Jesus lived 30 years of life, well, living life!

HOWEVER: When it was time for Him to STEP INTO THE NEW...guess what He did?

Matthew 4:1-2

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And **after He had fasted for forty days and forty nights**, He then became hungry.

Isaiah 40:31 – “But they that **wait upon the LORD** shall **renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

“**Wait**” – intertwined

ILLUSTRATION: Like a three-legged race...one leg tied to your partner.

In order to win, you have to get in SYNC with one another.

BELOVED: God wants not to just come into a relationship with us...but He desires us to become intertwined with Him.

- * When He speaks, we listen.
- * When He goes, we go.
- * When He pauses, we pause.

UNDERSTAND: it is those who tie their lives up with God who renew their strength. Fasting helps that process!

IMPORTANT: Don't mistake fasting for a few things...

- * FASTING doesn't twist God's arm into responding or performing!
- * FASTING doesn't earn you anything from God.
- * FASTING doesn't impress God...“If I fast long enough...”

UNDERSTAND: Fasting changes YOU...not God! It positions you to run with Him.

Jehoshaphat – when he was facing a stout enemy...he called a fast.

Elijah – when his life was in danger...he fasted.

Esther – when the Jewish nation was in trouble...she fasted.

Daniel – when he needed revelation, wisdom and answers...he fasted.

UNDERSTAND: It changed them...renewed them for what they were doing!

QUICK HIT: Types of fasting...

- 1.) Regular...all out...no food, only water.
- 2.) Juice fast...you get flavor with juice and teas.
- 3.) Partial fast...you fast specific things (coffee, desserts, meats, etc.)
- 4.) Stuff, not food (television, music, social media, etc.)

REPLACE it with the Word...with prayer...with time with Him.

2.) Get into the Word

Get the Word in...get in the word...get in the word!
There is NOTHING that will change you like the Word will.

Romans 12:2 – “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
(PHILLIPS) – “**Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mould**, but **let God re-mould your minds from within**, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.”

BELOVED: We need the Word to re-mold our minds...think differently than the world.

Isaiah 55:8,9

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

NOTICE: God’s ways are higher. The Word is TRUE Higher Education!

If you keep thinking like the world...you will keep living like the world...therefore, you will keep getting like the world.

If you start thinking like the Word...you will start living like the Word...therefore, you will get the NEW that God has promised His kids!

The thing about getting in the Word...it changes (renews) how you see things.

Ephesians 1:17-19

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Why we need the word?

- 1.) We see Who God is...how He thinks.
- 2.) We see who we are in Christ.
- 3.) We see what you have in Christ.
- 4.) We see what you can do in Christ.

REMEMBER: The bronze laver in the tabernacle...so the priests could see who they really were...and act like it!

UNDERSTAND: A lot of Christians hang out in disobedience NOT because they don’t know WHAT to do...but because they DON’T know WHO God is and who they are!

BECAUSE...they are not in the Word the way they should be.

If they are in the Word...they are listening to what a sinner they are...and sinners sin!

Listen to sermons...choose wisely...podcasts every day.

Joshua 1:8 – chew on it throughout the day...it WILL renew your mind.

3.) Apply faith

Hebrews 4:2 – “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”

The promises are in the Word...how to you bring it to yourself? Faith!

MARK HANKINS: “Faith is acting on God’s Word. The simplest definition of faith is to ACT like the BIBLE is TRUE!”

James 1:2-7

Vs. 6 – “But let him ask in faith...nothing wavering.”

INTERESTING: This passage makes it clear that the walk of faith...applying faith does NOT come without pressure.

That is why you need NEW WINESKINS...because of pressure! NEW WINE brings pressure...but faith allows you to stand in the middle of it!

ILLUSTRATION: Pressure makes diamonds!

Here we are trying to LIVE life or determine what is good in life depending on the pressure we feel! That has nothing to do with it.

Pressure comes whether you are living in faith or not...the outcome is what is different.

Mark 5:25-27

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

NOTICE: It wasn't easy...but she pressed!

Vs. 28 – She said and kept saying. Faith!

Vs. 29 – She got what she was believing for!

Mark 11:23 – “For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Three to One talking verses believing!

4.) **New Surroundings!**

If you want to prep NEW WINESKINS...perhaps new surroundings are what is necessary!

JESSE DUPLANTIS: “We must be ready to scrap the old life, the old friendships, the old habits and perhaps old careers...God must be first.”

Matthew 6:33 – Seek first the kingdom of God and righteousness.

BELOVED: You become what you hang around!

Proverbs 27:17 – “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

Who you hang out with...you become like!

Where you hang out at is either sharpening or dulling you!

Proverbs 13:20 – “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

Psalms 1:1 – “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

(AMP) – “BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather.”

ILLUSTRATION: When I was a teenager we had a family that attended our church...their two youngest sons had severe asthma and allergies (nature)...I was friends with their daughter. The allergies of Illinois (caused by moisture) mixed with their asthma would cause them immense problems breathing. In order to give them new air...new lease on life...they moved to Arizona (for the dry air).