

How to Make a Fresh Start in 2010

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Isaiah 43:18-19 (NCV) The Lord says, "Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. Look at the new thing I am going to do..."

HOW TO MAKE A FRESH S.T.A.R.T. IN 2010

1. Stop making excuses.

Proverb 28:13 (LB) A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance.

The starting point in making 2010 a good year is to be honest with ourselves and accept responsibility for what is happening in our lives.

Closely associated with making excuses is the tendency to give up too soon.

2. Take stock of my life.

Galatians 3:4 (GN) Did all your experience mean nothing at all? Surely it meant something!

Ask yourselves three questions:

- What have I learned?
- What are my assets?
- Who can help me?

3. Act in faith.

Matthew 9:29 (NIV) "According to your faith will it be done to you."

The Bible says the key to changing anything is faith.

Proverb 16:9 (LB) We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.

God desires that we live our lives by design, not by default.

4. Refocus my thoughts.

Proverb 4:23 (GN) Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

We need to refocus our thoughts if we want to change our lives.

The first step in doing this is to confess to God whatever we need to confess.

Psalm 1:1-3 (GN) Happy are those who...are always meditating on God's Word...They are like trees along a river...that do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.

5. Trust God to help me.

Zechariah 4:6 (NCV) “‘You will not succeed by your own strength or by your own power, but by my Spirit,’ says the Lord ...”

II Corinthians 5:17 (LB) When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!

God specializes in new beginnings.

We invite you to look over the verses in your sermon notes this week and ask and answer the following three questions (you are encouraged to get a notebook to record your thoughts):

1. What does the verse say?
2. What does the verse mean?
3. What does the verse mean to me personally?