

## A New Year, A New Heart

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Family Pastor Christopher Gray

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**“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” - Ezekiel 36:26-27**

Human effort cannot produce true spiritual change; we must surrender to the transforming power of God’s Spirit to receive the renewal He promises.

**God can give us a new heart by His Spirit**

**First Truth is — Human Effort Can’t Sustain Real Change**

Dependence in a biblical sense, is the *attitude and practice of fully trusting and relying on God for life, strength, wisdom, and provision* — rather than relying on ourselves.

**John 15:5** Jesus says “I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; (and notice) for without Me you can do nothing.”

**Second Truth is— The Spirit Transforms from the Inside Out**

*Transformation which is defined as “changing into another form; to be transfigured; to undergo an inward, essential change of nature or character.”*

**Romans 12:2** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

**The Third Truth which is — Renewal Begins with Repentance and Surrender**

1. Surrender means yielding control to God’s authority.
2. Surrender is an act of worship and obedience.
3. Surrender is modeled in Christ Himself.
4. Surrender leads to freedom, not bondage.

The Greek word for repentance is “metanoia” which means a change of mind “Repentance is the human response to God’s conviction, but obedience is the Spirit’s ongoing work in a redeemed life.” Remember I am not talking about making you clean on the outside, I am talking about making you new on the inside. This means our obedience to God is not self-generated but an overflow of a changed heart, notice a couple of things the Spirit does:

**1.The Holy Spirit Illuminates God’s Word**

**2. The Holy Spirit Convicts us of sin**

**3. The Holy Spirit produces fruit**

**James 4:7–8** “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded.”

**“God doesn’t give resolutions—He gives resurrections.”**

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