

Are you ready for the New Year?



I remember back in my "younger" years when it was an exciting event, a big celebration! Stay up half the night waiting on the midnight chime, usually with friends, having a "toddy" or two, and eagerly awaiting the New Year to make its entrance.

Nowadays, since my bedtime usually hits about 9:00 or so, midnight seems like an unlikely time for my eyes to be open. Then too, I wonder what this New Year thing is all about. It's just another day. Oh, of course, we are to make our "New Year's Resolutions", eat some traditional

dish, and recuperate from the prior evening's late hour.

Do you make resolutions? Oh, I used to. But it always turned out to be an almost fruitless venture for me. No doubt I would break one after another as time passed by.

My resolutions are daily efforts now. Each day is a new adventure anyway, isn't it! If God blesses me with another sun-up, then I should take advantage of His gift. Sometimes I can make it almost until noon before I've messed up. (I'm either grumbling or cranky or act like a real stick in the mud.)

And that's exactly when I need to remember all of the blessings that God has given me. There's a roof over my head, food in my fridge, and gas in my car. But, more importantly, there are family and friends that comfort and love me.

Also, I see loved ones that are not as blessed as I am. They suffer with health issues, have lost a loved one, or have had to go through some other trial in their lives. Sure, I've been through some of those same things and I'm sure others will occur in the future. But, one thing that has been my "life-saver" is the Spirit of God keeping me focused on His will, not mine.

No, it wasn't pleasant making funeral arrangements for my father's unexpected death years ago. And no, it wasn't fun seeing my mother suffer with Alzheimer's. But God planned it, and knew I was to follow His plan, not mine. And I am comforted knowing that neither of them is suffering now and having a really great time together in their Eternal Home.

As each day passes, I can feel the "age" thing playing tricks on me. Where did that "snap, crackle, pop" come from?!! And phooey, I can't do the things I used to. No longer do I climb up ladders to hang a picture. I've been clumsy enough to know that some chances are just not worth taking.

Even with God looking over me, I know He wants me to use good judgment in my activities as well as in my thinking. Excuse me please, I seem to have gotten rather personal with this message... and I guess my sentimentality is showing a bit. However, with the gift of this New Year coming up, I hope to do better, and I'm counting on God to lead the way. If He does the leading, and I remember to follow, you can bet that the New Year will be a wonderful, blessed time for me.

Happy New Year!!

-Jackie Abbott