



Newsletter

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Up Words # 8

RENEWAL TIME



My new AARP card came in the mail last Friday. I guess I'm good to go for another year of "senior citizen" discounts. So, that got me thinking about renewals. Between now and the end of the month most of us will realize that a new calendar is needed. Have you got yours on the wall yet? Do you have a date book for 2012? Then too, sometime during the year you will have to put a new license plate sticker on your automobile, and while thinking about your vehicle, will you need to renew your drivers license in 2012? Of course the IRS will want a new 1040 by April 15th. (if you forget that one, they will come looking for you!). And what about those magazine subscriptions? Some of them will also need renewed this year. Oh, and don't forget about the prescriptions too, better check your pill bottles for refill or renewal information.

Indeed a new year is a time of renewal. So think with me for a minute about spiritual renewal. What aspects of your walk with God need renewal? In II Corinthians 4:16 Paul writes, "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day." Paul had just endured a time of tremendous persecution that almost took his life (see verses 7-12 of this passage), and though distressed he is not discouraged. Like Paul, we need to be determined to not lose heart. It is easy for us to forsake our commitment to healthier eating and more exercise. Many of us will lose heart with our fitness resolutions. But when it comes to spiritual matters we need true resolve. We must maintain momentum no matter the obstacles.

Besides determination, Paul indicates that the real secret of his success was daily renewal. We can be renewed occasionally with special holidays, events or meetings. We can be renewed weekly by attending a church service or Bible study. But daily renewal comes only through a personal daily time with the Lord. How is your devotional life? Do you regularly pray and read God's Word? What Scripture are you reading? How many times will you reread Psalms and Proverbs? Those are great books but maybe something new should be considered. Afterall, God calls us to renewal not reruns.

Where will you be spiritually this year? Will you be flourishing or languishing? Now is the time for renewal. So, place that new calendar, gather those tax forms, mail that subscription and open God's Word.

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle