

# “New Year, New You!”

By McKade Marshall

Recently a friend of mine told me a funny story about her son running through the house chanting, “New year, new you! New year, new you!” I started to laugh, as she showed me how he threw each of his arms in the air saying, “New year, new you!” The little guy had probably seen someone on TV that he was imitating. Still, even days later, the image I had of a small child running around throwing his fists in the air yelling, “New year, new you!” made me chuckle. As I started to think about the new year and the new decade we are entering, it began to occur to me how profoundly true this chant really is.

## **The truth is God is constantly working on us.**

He is always shaping and re-shaping us for a specific purpose He has in mind. The Scriptures describe us as being like clay in the hands of God. Jeremiah 18:6 (NASB) says, “Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?” declares the LORD. ‘Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel.’ As moldable, wet clay, you are being formed into who the Lord made you to be when you surrender to Him. Everyday God is pushing you in one way, stretching you in another, and smoothing out the lumpy parts of your life because He is preparing you as His vessel to do great works.

There is a time and a season to every part of your life. When God is finished molding you for what comes next, the door will open for you to walk into the blessing. This process of God sculpting us is not always comfortable and rarely instantaneous. It reminds me of the times when I was in college, and the Lord would show me things. In different visions from God, on the movie screen of my mind, I would see pages and pages of writings all over my room while I would pray and listen to worship music. These pages seemed endless, and I knew they symbolized how much I would write one day. Throughout my twenties I always knew I would write books. However, I always thought it would be when I was older, perhaps during my retirement years.

## *God had a better plan.*

When I finished college in Texas I travelled out to Los Angeles, California and landed in Malibu. Being a southern, country guy from West Texas with a heart full of dreams and a head full of ideas, I was amazed at the way of life in this small, beautiful, laid-back, coastal city. It was in Malibu that several words spoken over me during church services began to be fulfilled. Right before I graduated college I had attended a worship service where a powerful minister named Ron Campbell prophesied that when I finished school I would go to a “profound, coastal place” where I would discover my purpose and my destiny. Malibu was the fulfillment of this word.

After the first few months of experiencing life in Malibu I went through a personal transformation of who I was and who I was meant to be. For years the education system, accolades, and achievements are what defined me - or so I thought. Ironically, I felt trapped by all my “successes”. It seemed I was valued by people for what I did and not for who I was. It was during these months of self-discovery and seeking the Lord’s will, working hard and living life straight out of college, that God began to transform my life. The past began to melt off of me (both the good and the bad), and the Lord began to show me who I was in Him. Once I was stripped of all I knew about myself and who I thought I was meant to be, God began to reform me like clay in His hands.

## **Our true identity can only be found in Jesus Christ.**

When I returned to Texas after spending some time in Malibu, it was not easy to begin rebuilding my life. At first it was difficult. I went through some personal heartaches and a dark season of the soul, but little did I know that after

this dark season had passed the author in me was going to be birthed. At the ripe old age of 29 (a far younger age than what most would consider retirement!), I wrote my first book *Tasting the Goodness of God: 31 Daily Devotionals for Everyday Living*. I remember when I returned to Malibu for a few weeks after writing the book I was thrilled to share it with my Messianic Jewish pastor and friend, Rabbi Jason Sobel.

Rabbi Jason celebrated with me and prayed a special blessing over me and the book God had put in my heart to write. I then returned home to continue on the book tour of a lifetime for the next nine months “waltzing across Texas” telling the world about Jesus and the devotion book God led me to write every weekend at bookstores. Unfortunately, my favorite bookstore franchise in the Southwest went bankrupt around the time my second book *Breathe* was published, so the extensive book tour came to an end. That was the bad news.

The good news is God had a new plan and a new season for me to step into.

Our God is a God Who plans, and Who plans well. As a matter of fact, Psalm 139:16 says God already planned every day you were ordained to be alive in His book before you were ever born. The Lord has been planning good things for you since before time began. When the doors of my favorite bookstores were closed, God almost overnight opened the door in my heart to begin filming videos with a gospel message. During the first year of filming I recorded a short video every month called “Word of the Month”. I enjoyed writing the scripts and sharing God’s Word on film so much that the next year I decided to launch a whole new series called “Word of the Week”. On January 1, 2017, I launched the first YouTube “Word of the Week” video entitled “Do Your Best, and God Will Do the Rest”. For those who receive my weekly emails, you know the rest is history.

“Word of the Week” has been running for over three years now. Every Sunday evening I post, email, and share with people around the world a weekly gospel message. The number of lives that have been touched by “Word of the Week” are far more than I ever could have in my own strength. It is only the hand of God that could have opened the door and Him give me the creative thought to pursue such an endeavor. In the same way, I believe as we enter this new decade God is opening up your heart and your thought life to receive a creative idea for you to talk hold of and make a reality.

*The Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20 (NASB), “God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us”.* The power that is at work in you right now as a believer is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was sent straight from Heaven on the day of Pentecost some 2,000 years ago, filling up the first believers with the power of God from on high. Today the same Holy Spirit that rested on Jesus and that rested upon the first apostles of the early church now rests upon you and me. The Holy Spirit is for all people who put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

**You are not a weakling. You are a warrior.**

Because you have God with you, you are unstoppable. It’s a new year, and it’s time for a new you! It’s time to let go of the past. It’s time to press on to the new things God has for you. Right now God is breathing your direction with more of His love, favor, and strength. He is instilling new hope, a holy confidence, that better days are straight ahead. If you have been through a terrible loss or a troubling setback, I believe today God wants you to hit the reset button. The prophet Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV), “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Whatever hurt or pain of the past that is following you today, I encourage you to let it all go. Place that pain in the hands of God. You are not denying the unfortunate event or the person you lost as insignificant or unimportant. Instead, you are giving it all over to God. *You are saying, “God, I cannot handle this on my own. I may not understand why this happened to me, but I know You have my best interests at heart; I can trust You.”* After I went through what I call a dark season of the soul several years ago, it took weeks and even months of me continually handing over all of my hurts, my pain, and my lack of understanding to God. Every day I would read the Bible and do devotional studies - even on the days that I did not feel like it.

**Reading the Bible every day is the key to becoming who you were meant to be.**

Every day for over six years I have read the Scriptures, read or listened to a devotional message, and prayed. Spending time with God religiously has become as vital to my life as eating. I could not do what I do if I did not force myself to read the Bible every day and talk to God through prayer. Having a personal quiet time with the Lord is critical in order for you to become all God created you to be. This year I encourage you to make it a priority to spend time with God every day, even if it's only 5 or 10 minutes starting out. On the days you really don't feel like reading your Bible, or listening to the Bible on audio (there are lots of great smartphone apps for this!), I encourage you to do it anyway, even if it is only a few verses at a time. Allow God to minister to you through the power of His Word.

The best thing you can ever do for yourself and for your loved ones is to develop a stronger personal relationship with God. Jesus tells us in John 10:10 (ESV), "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." God's will for you is for you to live a rich, full, faith-filled, abundant life. The Lord loves to see you prosper, thrive, and succeed in whatever it is He has called you to do. On the contrary, the enemy hates seeing you succeed. The good news today is God is much greater than the enemy! *The Scriptures say in Psalm 23:5 (NLT), "You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings."*

### **God loves showing you off in the eyes of people.**

The Lord wants you to shine for His glory in this world. You are made in His image, and you carry His light for all the world to see (see Matthew 5:14-16). Whenever the devil tries to snuff out the light shining in you, just keep being who God made you to be. Keep seeking God every day. Keep telling people about the Father's love. Rise above the darkness, and overcome evil with good (see Romans 12:17-21). You have been set apart to do great works for God. You have brothers and sisters of the same faith all over the world who are partnered with you to carry forth the good news that Jesus Christ died for us. You are not alone.

*As your brother in Christ, I am always praying for you.* I celebrate every time someone signs up for weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters. I rejoice every time someone tells me they were touched by a message that God put on my heart to share. Every morning I pray God blesses you. I pray He pours out more of His favor and blessings on your family, your business, your ministry, your relationships, your finances, and your health. I ask God to not hold back any good thing from your life! If you are reading this newsletter, I believe it is not a coincidence. I believe it is because we are called to be in a faith partnership in order to spread God's love and His kingdom together. Regardless of where you live or what church you may or may not attend, we are all one through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **It is Christ's Spirit that bonds us all together as one body of believers (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).**

I am learning the power of this bond through running MLM Publishing, which is the legal business entity I set up in 2014 in order to distribute my writings and videos through. Recently the Lord showed me to begin treating MLM Publishing not only as a ministry but as a business. He showed me I had to run MLM Publishing as a business in order to grow and reach more people. Since this divine revelation from the Lord, MLM Publishing has exploded in growth in just a few short months! Through strategic Facebook ads, which are primarily funded through generous donors like you, I have been able to reach new people interested in receiving gospel videos and seasonal newsletters.

I have mailed out gospel newsletters every three months for over five years now since my first book was published. The first newsletter reached only a small group of people in Texas and California. However, the list of subscribed readers and viewers has grown little by little over the last few years. **For the first time ever, this winter newsletter will be the first newsletter in the history of MLM Publishing to be mailed to all 50 states in the country. Praise the Lord!** People from all over the United States are now receiving newsletters and weekly videos telling them about the goodness of God.

*I believe this winter God is doing a new thing in you. We are in a "New Year, New You!" season.*

Like clay in the hands of the potter, your life is being shaped and formed for upcoming breakthroughs. God is releasing turnarounds in your life. His holy angels are setting things up for you to experience overflow in your health, your finances, your relationships, and your spiritual walk. I believe in this 2020's decade the body of Christ is going

to be a people full of gifts and talents that transform the world we live in. This is the divine decade God is calling us as the Church to expand our vision, to enlarge our territory, and to begin thinking more strategically on how to share His Word and His love with the rest of the world.

If you know someone that is not signed up to receive these newsletters, or you are not signed up, I encourage you to go to [mlmpublishing.org](http://mlmpublishing.org), or my personal website [mckademarshall.com](http://mckademarshall.com), and submit your information there. Also, I email hundreds of subscribers a weekly gospel message every Sunday evening called "Word of the Week". If you or someone you know that might be interested is not subscribed, please make sure to add your email addresses as well. I do not want you to miss out on these encouraging, faith-filled weekly messages.

*I declare this winter you are a new creation in Christ. Because you do your best to honor God in every area of your life, God is pouring back His honor on you. You are one of the stars of God made to shine in the midst of a dark world. You have everything you need this year to fulfill your new purpose in Him. You are going from glory to glory, from victory to victory, as you follow Christ's leading. For every setback, God is releasing a comeback for you to step into. With the Lord's help, there is nothing you cannot accomplish! I love you, and I am praying for you.*

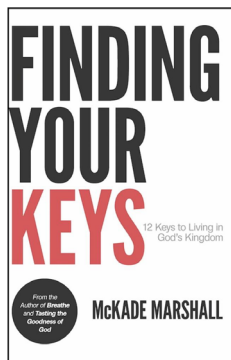
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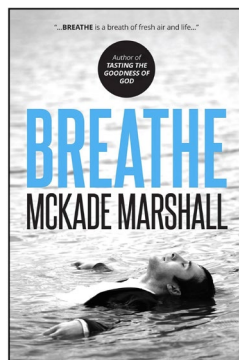
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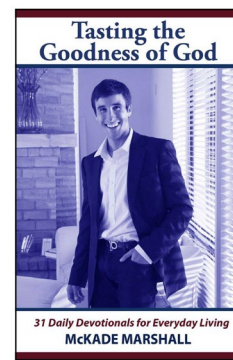
**P.S. Donations to MLM Publishing can be made online or check by mail. All proceeds from one-time and monthly recurring donations will go towards promoting weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters. Even small amounts can make a large impact!** *For example, on average, for about \$2 spent on a lead ad, a person from any part of the country now signs up to receive weekly gospel videos and seasonal newsletters after seeing a "lead ad". For perspective, just \$10 dollars can change the lives of 5 people, plus whoever they share with, for years to come! Your gift makes an eternal impact!*



**AUTHORITY**







**DREAM**



**DEVOTION**

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