

New Year SAME God MINI DEVOTIONAL



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NEW YEAR SAME GOD

I think that we can all agree that 2020 was an unprecedented year. There were not too many things that could have been predicted. No one could have seen it coming. But one thing that is true, our God is predictable even in unpredictable situations.

God never changes.
He remains the same.
Yesterday. Today. And forever.
We can always count on Him.

So this is a New Year!
But we serve the SAME God.

This Mini Devotional is an accompaniment to the "New Year, Same God" video series by Natasha Smith of Lovely You Blog.

The series discusses biblical truths about God's character from the Word of God that will help us navigate through life from a God perspective in the year ahead.



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Unchanging

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 NIV

Each year, there is grand expectations of what the upcoming year will hold. Many, just as myself, have set goals or even still New Year's resolutions. All in hopes of meeting each goal and sticking to each resolution. But as we witnessed and experienced in 2020, things change. And they can change at the flip of a coin or a blink of an eye, so to speak.

So what do we do with a seemingly ever changing, fluid world that we live?

We ANCHOR ourselves to the One who is never changing. Because this will give us stability during unstable times. The bible says that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8 NIV

And James 1:17 tells us there is no shadow of changing in Him. And because He is unchanging we can count on His love, His power, His strength, His wisdom...Him being *perfect in all of His ways* character to remain the same.

People change.
Things change.
Everything changes.
But you God.

DAY 2

Unshakeable

"The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe," Hebrews 12:27-28

I remember trying out for the football team in high school. Yes, I did that. And we were on the field doing a drill. I was holding a tackle pad, standing straight up with my feet just shoulder distance apart. The drill started and I remember my classmate Michael Bennett running towards me. He hit the tackle pad and I literally flipped and landed flat on my back. It was so embarrassing. And needless to say, that was my last time on a football field. So, what went wrong?

My feet were not planted. I had not learned and did not have proper form. And I was not prepared. So, he was able to take me down. And 'tis life. Things come along that try to shake us and if we are not rooted and grounded in Him who is unshakeable, we will be shaken and we will fall.

God and His Kingdom cannot be shaken. So, we can learn from the Word and be prepared for everything that comes charging our way in this year and in the years to come. So that we too can be unshakeable.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
1 Corinthians 15:58

DAY 3

Faithful

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 NIV

Simply stated, God keeps His promises.

And what He says in His Word, He commits to do. He is faithful to perform His Word. Because His very promises are Yes and Amen.

Remember Psalm 37:25?

It says "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."

Think back on all the things that God has done for you over the years or just this past year. If we are honest, He has never failed us.

The One who is faithful and true, will always be faithful to His Word concerning you.

So, we can "give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever." Psalm 107:1 NLT

Take some time to read the bible and find at least 5 promises in God's Word for you to really proclaim and lean on this year.

DAY 4

Truth

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV

God is complete truth. Therefore, it is impossible for Him to lie.

"God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged." Hebrews 6:18 NIV

2020 was filled with disappointments for so many of us. And in 2020, we found many things to have failed us. Including some people and our own plans.

But God is not a man. He does not parade himself as something that he is not. We can always count on Him and His Word.

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19 NIV

So, when we don't understand or can't see our way, we just need to look to His Word. Because there we find His Will. Because His Will is His Word. And it is complete truth.

What is one truth found in God's Word, that you can meditate on today?

DAY 5

Love

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." 1 John 4:9-10 NIV

I've heard it said that love is not a feeling but it is the person of God. And this is true...God IS Love. And everything that He does, it flows from a place of love.

And when we know this truth, we know that no matter what the year or what life may bring, God has us covered. He will make all things work together for our good.

Although everything may not be good that happens in our life. God can make everything to work into a pattern for good as Romans 8:28 declares.

There has never been, nor will there ever be a greater love than the love of God. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." I'm so thankful that He calls us His friends." John 15:13 NIV

And "Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

What great love the Father has lavished on us. Take time today to thank God for His great love towards you.

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