

1-7-22

## **THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison**

### **YOU CAN START OVER**

Each New Year presents an opportunity to make changes in one's life which can lead to improvements and benefits not previously enjoyed. Many people choose to diet hoping to improve their health. Others resolve to be a better spouse or parent. Some will resolve to give up unhealthy habits such as smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, using recreational drugs, cursing, or lying. A few people will resolve to change their lifestyle to conform to the will of God as revealed in the Bible. Fulfilling this last resolution will take care of many others already mentioned.

Spiritually speaking every person has a standing opportunity this side of eternity to start over. Jesus taught Nicodemus the necessity of being "born again." (John 3:1ff). Nicodemus did not understand the type of birth of which Jesus spoke and asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus explained that the "new birth" was spiritual in its nature and involves two elements - "water" and "the Spirit." (John 3:5-6). The only "water" mentioned in the New Testament in connection with salvation is water baptism. To be "born of the water" is to be baptized (immersed in water) into Christ where one's sins are washed away by His precious blood (Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; Revelation 1:5). What about the Spirit? "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Romans 8:16 reads, "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." In baptism a penitent believer receives the forgiveness of sins and rises to "walk in newness of life" (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4). In other words, one starts over spiritually.

If as a Christian, you have forsaken your Lord you too can start over. Through genuine repentance and confession of your sin in prayer to God, you may ask and receive forgiveness from our merciful Heavenly Father (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8-10). You can start over faithfully serving the Lord from this point forward.

Do you need to start over? Resolve to do so now while time and opportunity are on your side. May we help? 270-978-7569 or email [greenplaincoc@gmail.com](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com). Visit our website at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>. Request a FREE Bible Correspondence Course Write us at Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Rd Hazel, KY 42049. For online Bible study videos go to [gbntv.org](http://gbntv.org) where you will find videos on a variety of Bible subjects. Thanks for reading and may God bless you consistent with His divine will.