

LET GO & MOVE ON WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR 2022

At the start of the year, it is healthy to brush ourselves off from what we perceive as the negatives of the past year, and look with hopeful expectation for to the new mercies the Lord has for us in 2022.

The story is often told how certain hunters in Africa catch monkeys. A small jar is placed at the base of a tree with nuts or fruit to attract the monkey's curiosity. The opening of the jar allows the monkey to place his hand in, but when he tries to withdraw it, he cannot without letting go of the contents of his hand. Rather than let go, some monkeys will stay there with their hand in the jar until the hunter comes to catch them! They are shut off from their freedom because they are unwilling to **LET GO** of something they have which is working against them.

It is not just monkeys who get trapped by what they are unwilling to release. While, most of us would not be tempted by peanuts or sweets in a jar, it's amazing the things we hang onto rather than release them so we can move on. To move on and not get trapped in our past it is essential, from time to time, to consciously and deliberately loose ourselves not only from the hurts, battle wounds, disappointments, regrets, injustices of the past but also from the blessings of the past to move on to make room for the New Mercies that our Shepherd King is preparing for us.

When we hand the events of the past, including, hurts pains and regrets and release them to the Our Heavenly Father's big hands, He goes to work to **REDEEM** all the events of the past and present and everything that has transpired in our lives to make them "work together for our good." (Romans 8.28) In this way we are released from all kinds of **VICTIM CONSCIOUSNESS**, our hands are removed from the jar of the past and we are ready to receive and welcome the future.



It is sad when people regret the past, fear the future and so disqualify themselves from enjoying God's goodness in the present. His ancient mercies never grow old - they are always new. He is always pouring out His Spirit and He is always sending out the word of His grace. Let us receive all He is giving us and look forward to a wonderful year ahead, embracing His mercies and making ourselves available for anything He calls us to do and everything He wants us to be.

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."
(James 1.17 NRSV)

Dear Heavenly Father,

We loose ourselves from the hurts and wounds of the past.

We receive Your forgiveness for all our mistakes and sins, and we in turn forgive everyone who has hurt or disappointed us.

We loose ourselves from every spirit of regret, every spirit of infirmity, every spirit of heaviness, and every spirit of fear; and we bind ourselves to Your will, Your plans, Your calling, Your mercies, Your blessings and Your opportunities.

Here we are Father, at the beginning of this new year, cleansed by Your blood and ready (by Your grace) to do Your will. Behold we come to do Your will. Be it done to us according to Your word.

*"Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you **bind on earth** will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose **on earth** will be loosed in heaven."* (Matt. 18.18)

"One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3.13)

*"Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, **I make all things new.**" And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."* (Revelation 21.5)