

OFF TO A FRESH START IN 2010

Have you ever wished you could just start your life over - to rewind the tape?
Psalms 145:14 (msg) *God gives a fresh start to those who are ready to quit.*

Mark 10:46-52

Bartimaeus said to himself, *"I'm going to take full advantage of this moment. Jesus is coming my way. I'm not going to procrastinate. It's my time now."*

That's the first step to a fresh start.

...Seize your Moment!

Procrastination will keep us from taking advantage of our opportunities!

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (tlb) *If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.*

Job 9:25 (gw) *My days go quickly. More quickly than a runner, they sprint away.*

Job 8:9 (tev) *Our life is short....We pass like shadows across the earth.*

Proverbs 27:1 (niv) *Don't boast about tomorrow for you don't know what a day will bring forth.*

Ephesians 5:16b (nlt) *Make the most of every opportunity...*

What do you need to stop procrastinating about?

Jesus said this in **Luke 9:62** (msg) *No procrastination, no backwards looks. You can't put off God's kingdom until tomorrow. Seize the day.*

Not only should we stop procrastinating but we also need to confront our fears!

...Confront your Fears.

Making a fresh start with God in 2010 will cause us to confront our fears.
Our fears establish the boundaries of our life.

We need to step into our fears and to use our fears to fuel our life.

If we don't confront our fears head on we will not be present in the moments we are needed the most.

It's better for us to step into our fears, then to be chased down by our fears!
Courage is not the absence of fear but the absence of self!

Bartimaeus faced one fear that many of us face - the fear of rejection.

Mark 10:48 (gnb) *Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on me!'*

The fear of rejection is a struggle for all of us.

Proverbs 29:25 (msg) *The fear of human opinion disables you; trusting in God protects you from all that.*

...Take the Plunge.

What is the next step for you?

God will never be finished in taking us deeper in faith. We will never just arrive. There is always a next step toward faith, toward love, toward hope, happiness and contentment.

Mark 10:52b (tev) *...at once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.*

Mark 10:46 (nlt) *Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road as Jesus was going by.*

Which of those two phrases describes your life – sitting beside the road or following Jesus on the road?

Faith is more than believing. Faith is more than thinking about Jesus, more than talking about Jesus. Faith is action. It is movement. Faith is something you do.

James 2:14 (ncv) *If people say they have faith but do nothing, their faith is worth nothing.*

Where do we get the faith to begin a fresh start?

Our new fresh start is found in Jesus!

1 Corinthians 1:30 (msg) *Everything that we have – right thinking, right living, clean slate and a fresh start comes from God by way of Jesus Christ.*

The reason you are sitting here right now is because God is giving you an opportunity for a fresh start. Don't blow it. Don't let it pass you by.

Don't procrastinate, seize your moment now by confronting your fears and take the step you need to take by responding to Jesus!

Application

My next step is for a fresh start is.....
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