

A New Year Prayer

Like a boat beginning a voyage into the deep, we have launched into 2012.

What will the new year be like? Will it bring sadness and heartache? Most likely. Will there be joy and fulfillment along the way? Assuredly. Will we find love and friendship? Certainly – if we show love and friendship.

You see, life is a mixture of highs and lows, of triumphs and setbacks, of challenges and conquests.

Christians can approach the journey before us with faith in the future, because we know Who holds it. God has told us – and demonstrated – that He loves us supremely, and He wants the best for us.

Recently, I discovered a prayer for the new year. Its author is unknown, but it is appropriate to share today, Jan. 3, perhaps at a standup meeting, or in a family devotional period, or over lunch with a co-worker. Here it is:

God of our yesterdays, our today, and our tomorrows, we praise You for Your unequalled greatness. Thank You for the year behind us and for the year ahead. Help us in Your new year, Father, to fret less and laugh more; to teach our children to laugh by laughing with them; to teach others to love by loving them; knowing, when Love came to the stable in Bethlehem, He came for us.

Help us, Father, to hear Your love song in every sunrise, in the chirping of sparrows in our backyards, in the stories of old folks, and the fantasies of our children. Help us to stop and listen to Your love songs so that we may know You better and better. We rejoice in the world You loved into being.

Thank you for another new year and for new chances every day. We pray for peace, for light, and for hope, that we might spread them to others. Forgive us for falling short this past year. We leave the irreparable past in Your hands, and step out into the unknown new year knowing You will go with us.

We accept Your gift of a new year, and we rejoice in what's ahead, depending on You to help us do exactly what You want. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

What will the new year be like? It is exciting to consider what lies before us – determining to enjoy every day that God gives us.

– Beecher Hunter