

Intro: Good Morning and WELCOME to a brand new year! What better place to start a new year than in the presence of God and the community of faith! Welcome to our Vida Nueva family...we worship in the same building every week...but today we have the joy of being together in the same room! This is like heaven! As I said to the kids when I spoke to them, you and I have the amazing opportunity to write the story we desire on the pages of our life this year. God has given us a fresh new opportunity, and it is up to us what we want to make out of it. As Pastor Orin and I were talking about this service a few months ago, he suggested that since we are beginning a New Year...it would be appropriate to look at the REAL beginning...the FIRST beginning...and so if you have your bibles turn with me to Genesis Ch 1! And lets start this New Year...At The Beginning!

In looking at the first couple of chapters of Genesis God spoke and gave me a message for you that consists of 4 specific things we all need to know as we begin our New Year. Each one of these concepts is vitally important

- *God Can Make Something Out Of Your Nothing*
- *God Wants To Walk In Relationship WITH YOU*
- *God Created You For Community*
- *God Redeems Your Failures and Mistakes*

Lets take those one at a time and see how God wants to help us create a fantastic New Year

1. First, God Can Make SOMETHING Out Of Your NOTHING! Gen 1:1-10

When we go all the way back to the very beginning of creation, this is what we find.

- A. Gen 1 There was NOTHING
- Without Form: Lit = It was empty...there was NOTHING (God did not create from existing materials)
 - Void: Lit = It was a void...NOTHING there...Empty
 - Dark: Lit = There was darkness on that deep emptiness...NOT EVEN LIGHT: NOTHING THERE
 - Except: The Spirit of God! God, the Eternal One...was there...
Hovering: Lit = Brooding...Fluttering...Moving
- B. God SPOKE into the NOTHING and Made SOMETHING...not only did He make "something" EVERYTHING" Every single thing you see in this universe came into existence at the WILL and WORD OF GOD!
John 1:1-3 All that IS...Came about from the intent, desire and will of God...
- C. God is STILL in the CREATING business!

Applic: Some of you came today facing a New Year that you are NOT excited about...Feel like have Nothing

- Maybe it is your finances: You are not sure HOW you are going to make it: Bank Account: Nothing
- Maybe it is your health: Dr's have said...you don't HAVE good health...nothing there
- Maybe relationship: Look around and you don't feel like there is ANYONE there for you:
- Maybe Spiritual Life: You pray...don't feel like God hears...or Cares...or moves.

Applic: I am here to tell you that when you say to yourself...I have Nothing...No Hope, No Help, No Future That is NOT from God...that comes straight from the Evil One. Because God is still making something fm nothing As long as you have God with you...You have EVERYTHING you need. Because what ISN'T there...He will MAKE!

- **Finances:** Do you think the One who MADE the silver and gold can't give you what you need?
- **Health :**Do you think the One who holds you in palm of His hand cannot make you healthy if He desires?
- **Relationship:** Do you think the One who CREATED you for Community can't provide what you need?
- **Spiritual Life:** Do you think the One who gave His Only Son on the cross for you...will withhold Him today

Here is what you need to do...You need to BRING HIM YOUR NOTHING...and ASK Him to Make SOMETHING!

When we get to the end of the service...if you feel like you have NOTHING...You should RUN to altar!

Illus: Moses in wilderness, No water, No Food, No Direction...RECEIVED FROM GOD EVERYTHING
Why? Because every single time Moses was in need...He took that need to God...and God met it
God brought water from the Rock, Manna from the sky and led them day and night His presence.
GOD is STILL IN THE CREATING BUSINESS...You Just need to stop complaining...start PRAYING!

2. God Wants To Walk In Relationship With You. Gen 3:8

This is one of the most beautiful passage in the entire bible. Read it and pause...let it sink in...and FEEL it They heard the voice of Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. God wanted to WALK with them God so loved them...so valued them...so wanted to BE with them that He would come and walk with them! They heard Him walking in the Garden...and they KNEW who it was! Evidently this was not the first time! It's the story of the old hymn, In The Garden. "He walks with me and He talks with Me...He tells me I am His own!

God wanted to walk with Adam and Eve. And listen to me. He wants to walk with you as well! And here is something I want you to notice. Because you will say, "I'm not pure enough, holy enough, righteous enough. God wouldn't want to walk with me. God came LOOKING for Adam and Eve...even though He KNEW they had sinned!

Again, when something tells you that God doesn't DESIRE to walk with you...It isn't God. He is looking for you just the same way He came looking for them! The heart of God is toward you! He loves you...He wants to walk with you, bless you, be with you. Anything that tells you otherwise is from the Evil One....not from God!

- Isaiah 43:1-4 "But now, this is what the LORD says-- he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you,"
- Rev 3:20 " Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

Applic: Maybe you are here and you have NEVER walked with God. You don't have a relationship with Him. Listen to me. He WANTS to walk with you in 2023. Maybe you came today thinking...I wonder if maybe I can start a relationship with God. I have never had one...but I want one. You can have that. He is here...knocking..Open Maybe you are here...and Like Adam and Eve you have sinned...walked away from God, been disobedient and you have been hiding from Him. He is looking for YOU just as surely as He came looking for them.

Illus: But here is something you have to understand. He will pursue...He will NOT force! Knock: Not Open YOU have to make the choice to open the door of you heart to HIM.

Illus: Picture of Jesus No exterior handle

Again...at the end of the service...Come...say, Pastor...I need to start...or need to rebuild my relationship

3. God Created You For Community.

Gen 2:18

God created Adam perfectly. God gave him the perfect environment. Garden Gave perfect job: Care for Garden And He looked at Adam and said: "It is NOT GOOD for man to be alone!" Not JUST marriage! COMMUNITY We NEED other people in our life. If we learned anything from Covid we learned...Not Good To Be Alone! You were created to be in COMMUNITY with others...and you will not be at peace until you have that community.

There is NO SUCH THING as Lone Ranger Christian. Just me and God. No. It is NOT GOOD for man to be alone Adam HAD God in the Garden. He had perfect living conditions...He had perfect job. NEEDED COMMUNITY

Illus: Pastor: I don't know HOW to do that. Listen to me. It's not hard. You can do this. It will take time, it will take energy, it will take commitment, but It will be worth it. Where do you find community? Service or Study Together

- Study: Existing Groups: Men/Women/ABS MARRIAGE; REVELATION; JOHN; WOMENS CONF
- Service: Winter Relief: Mexico Mission Trip: Fund Raisers; Dinners, Yard Sale; Movie Night

Here is what happens: When you study and pray together: Knits your hearts: When sacrifice and service: KNITS It is in the process of putting yourself out there...that you build relationships:

Illus: Golden Gate Suspension Bridge 27, 572 individual wires: Picture

4. God Redeems Your Failures And Mistakes.

Gen 3:21

You know the story. Eve was deceived...Adam intentionally was disobedient..They sinned...Paid the price...but In the midst of judgment of God, you see the hope of redemption and the promise of forgiveness. Made Covering God made garments of skin and clothed...covered them. Could have woven clothes. But animal was slain And God used the skin to make a covering for them...All of this was a foreshadowing of Lamb of God: Jesus, Who was slain for us on the cross so His blood could be a covering for our sin...and forgiveness bought.

Right at the beginning...From the very start, God was at work to redeem and forgive. And in the exact same way He was working to forgive Adam and Eve's Sin. He wants to forgive YOURS. All you have to do is confess, Ask Come to Him and Say, Father, I have sinned. Will you forgive me because of what Jesus did on the cross.

Maybe you are here today, and 2022 was an awful year. You walked away from God in sin. Come home. He is waiting, all you have to do is ask. Will you do that? Will you start the New Year off with a clean slate. COME

CONCL: Today, I challenge you To Do A Couple of Things

1. Come ask God to make SOMETHING out of your NOTHING. He can do the impossible
2. Come and tell God...I want to WALK WITH YOU this year! I'm here, opening the door of my heart! Come In Or...God...I know you...and I have walked away...but TODAY...I want to turn around...and walk home!
3. Come and say, God...I NEED community. I am ALONE...and it HURTS...Show me MY PLACE...give me the courage to step out...and say...I'm going to STUDY...I'm Going To SERVE. Put ONE WIRE IN PLACE
4. Come and say...God you know my failures...you know my mistakes...will you forgive me? Restore me? Will you help me turn and start in the right direction.

Paul Phil 3: Forgetting those things that lie behind...Pressing on toward the Goal...

Today God...On the first day of a brand new year...I'm going start it off RIGHT with your help
YOU COME AS WE PRAY!