

A script from



“A Renewed Spirit”

by
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What A new year brings thoughts of fresh starts and renewing commitments. This Responsive Reading is perfect for incorporating into your worship service to encourage your church to renew their lives from the inside out.

Themes: New Year, Starting Over, Resolutions, Past, Moving Forward, Commitment, Purpose, God's Plan

Who Reader 1 (R1)
Reader 2 (R2)
Reader 3 (R3)
Congregation (C)

When Present

**Wear
(Props)** Three black binders for Readers' scripts

Why Hebrews 10:23, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Proverbs 19:21, Jeremiah 29:11

How It's important that you don't simply read the words, but speak them with conviction. Think about how it applies to your life and it will affect the way you say the words. All Readers should lead the Congregation in saying their lines.

Note: All scripture references are taken from Bible.org.

Time Approximately 2-3 minutes

Readers address the audience.

- R1: With every year that draws to a close, we remember.
- R2: We reflect on triumphs, moments that made us smile, goals achieved.
- R3: We rewind the tape of moral failures, past struggles, weaknesses, secret sins.
- R2: We re-evaluate what seems confusing in our world. What needs to change.
- R1: We long to renew.
- C: "Create for me a pure heart, O God! Renew a resolute spirit within me!"
(Psalm 51:10)
- R1: Within me. A resolute spirit. We look at the new year before us and this spirit within us stirs.
- R2: A stirring up that resurrects hope for a better year to come.
- R3: A hope that has been buried in a past year's struggles, distractions, mistakes.
- C: "And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy." *(Hebrews 10:23)*
- R1: Trustworthy. When the year is over, we reflect on the many things to which we did not remain trustworthy.
- R2: The resolutions. The relationships. The things that loosened our grip when we gave in to temptation.
- R3: So this year, let us release these things. Release at the feet of God all that we regret.
- R1: All of our regression.
- R2: All of the guilt-ridden residue of the past year. For in the residue, we cannot see ourselves the way God sees us.
- R3: And let us return. Return custody of ourselves to God.
- R1: All that we have and all that we are.
- R2: All that we are not and all that we try to be.
- R1: Because we cannot try hard enough.

R2: Hard enough to be the creation He has made and perfected through the blood of His Son.

C: "So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away – look, what is new has come!" (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

R3: The new is here.

R2: New.

R1: Redeemed.

R2: A redeemed spirit.

R1: A redeemed purpose.

C: Lord, redeem our spirit and show us a new purpose this year.

R3: And do not allow us to rely on our own plans.

C: For "There are many plans in a person's mind, but it is the counsel of the Lord which will stand." (*Proverbs 19:21*)

R1: Lord, I claim your purpose.

R2: Lord, I claim your plan.

R3: Lord, I claim your provision to give us everything we need to prosper in the coming year.

C: "For I know what I have planned for you," says the Lord. "I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope." (*Jeremiah 29:11*)