

Introduction

Welcome to our RENew devotional guide. I hope your heart, my heart, all our hearts, long for spiritual renewal. I have been a Christian for over 40 years, and sometimes my focus, energy, and joy can cool and fade. There is a tendency for all of us to fall into predictable routines that lack passion. Scripture study can become informational but not transformational, prayer can be a joyless duty, loving others can feel exhausting, and worship can be unengaging. Must we settle for this kind of a stagnant and powerless spiritual existence? God graciously offers to bring renewal to our hearts as we wait (trust, rely, depend) upon him.

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31, underlining mine)

To “renew” is to restore, replenish, or revive. Of course, we cannot renew our own hearts through our noble intentions or disciplined efforts. Renewal is a work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). God our Father, in his great love for us, has not only declared his end to renew all things, but he has provided the necessary means to that end. Specifically, the word of God, the Spirit of God, and the people of God are his divinely appointed means to bring renewal to our hearts, our relationships, our churches, and our world.

How to Use This Devotional

This devotional contains 12 lessons designed for your use over a span of 12 weeks. They generally correspond with 12 Sunday morning sermons being preached at Central Presbyterian Church this fall. Although you can use this devotional apart from hearing these sermons, the devotional will be enhanced if you do so. Both the devotional content and audio of each week’s sermons will be available on-line (www.centralpres.com).

Each devotional contains:

1. One or more Scripture readings
2. A commentary on those Scriptures
3. Study questions and action steps (for individuals, families, small groups)
4. A suggested prayer

May the Lord be pleased to bring gospel renewal to our hearts as we grow together in his word, empowered by his Spirit, in fellowship with his people, and engaging our world.

Pastor Bob

RENew Sermon Series: Fall 2014

1	Sep. 7	What Is the Gospel?	I Corinthians 15:1-11
2	Sep. 14	What the Gospel Is Not	Galatians 1:6-9; 2:11-21
3	Sep. 21	Do You Believe the Gospel?	Colossians 1:3-14
4	Sep. 28	How Does the Gospel Renew Us?	Psalms 51
5	Oct. 5	A Renewal of Prayer	I Thessalonians 5:12-28
6	Oct. 12	A Renewal of Sacrificial Service	Mark 8:27-38
7	Oct. 19	A Renewal of Stewardship	Daniel 4:28-33; Exodus 31:1-6; Colossians 4:3; Proverbs 30:8-9
8	Oct. 26	A Renewal of Generosity	II Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-15
9	Nov. 2	A Renewal of Our Hearts	Matthew 6:19-34
10	Nov. 9	A Renewal of Witness	I Peter 2:1-12; Colossians 4:5-6
11	Nov. 16	A Renewal of Worship	Luke 7:36-50
12	Nov. 23	A Renewal of Relationships	Colossians 3:1-17
	Nov. 30	First Sunday in Advent	

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