

Jesus Christ and Your New Beginning

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Jesus Kristus og jeres nye begyndelse

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October 2025 general conference

All of us can have a new beginning through, and because of, Jesus Christ. Even you.

Vi kan alle få en ny begyndelse gennem og på grund af Jesus Kristus. Selv dig.

A Scriptural Understatement: Jesus Went About Doing Good

Jesus “went about doing good.” We read that simple report in the book of Acts. What an enormous understatement that is! Jesus surely did go about doing good! He is the very essence—and source—of goodness! He devoted His entire mortal life to doing good. He is “merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant,” infinite in goodness and everlasting in mercy.

Any attempt at describing or summarising His goodness and mercy would be an understatement! Truly, as the Apostle John tried to express, if we were to attempt to record every manifestation of the Saviour’s goodness, “even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.”

Jesus Christ Offers Each of Us a New Beginning

The specific examples we do have immortalised in scripture of Jesus going about “doing good” stir deep awe and wonder, especially when we really consider what it might have been like to be there, to witness His miracles, to receive His teachings, and to experience His healing. He conversed with the social outcasts, He touched the diseased and unclean, He brought comfort to the weary, He taught liberating truth, and He called sinners to repentance. To each leper, blind man, and adulterous woman; to the lame, the deaf, and the dumb; to every grieving mother,

En underdrivelse i skriften: Jesus færdedes overalt og gjorde vel

Jesus »færdedes overalt og gjorde vel«. Vi læser denne enkle beretning i Apostlenes Gerninger. Det er en enorm underdrivelse! Jesus færdedes i sandhed overalt og gjorde godt! Han er selve essensen af – og kilden til – godhed! Han viede hele sit jordiske liv til at gøre godt. Han er »barmhjertig og nådig ... sen til vrede og rig på troskab og forbarmer sig for evigt«.

Ethvert forsøg på at beskrive eller sammenfatte hans godhed og barmhjertighed ville være en underdrivelse! Det er, som apostlen Johannes forsøgte at formulere, sandt, at hvis vi skulle forsøge at nedskrive enhver tilkendegivelse af Frelserens godhed, ville end ikke »hele verden kunne rumme de bøger, som så måtte skrives«.

Jesus Kristus tilbyder os hver især en ny begyndelse

De konkrete eksempler, vi har udødeliggjort i skriften, hvor Jesus går omkring og »gør godt«, vækker dyb ærefrygt og forundring, især når vi virkelig tænker over, hvordan det må have været at være der, at være vidne til hans mirakler, at modtage hans lære og at opleve hans helbredelser. Han talte med de socialt udstødte, han rørte ved de syge og urene, han trøstede de trætte, han forkyndte befriende sandhed, og han kaldte syndere til omvendelse. Til hver spedalsk, blind mand og utro kvinde; til de lamme, døve og stumme; til hver sørgende mor, fortvivlet far

desperate father, and mourning widow; to the condemned, the shamed, and the suffering; to the dead in body and the dead in spirit, what He did was offer a new beginning. Yes, another staggering understatement!

Everything He said and did provided a new beginning for each of those He healed, blessed, taught, and relieved of sin. He didn't withdraw from them, and He certainly won't withdraw from you. Imagine in this moment hearing any of these life-giving words from Him:

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

"Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

"Be thou clean."

"Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

"Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

The Saviour's words to these individuals were brief, but with them He painted vast new horizons of forgiveness, healing, restoration, peace, and eternal life. And the glorious news is He offers the same new beginning to you and to me. All of us can have a new beginning through, and because of, Jesus Christ. Even you. New beginnings are at the heart of the Father's plan for His children. This is the church of new beginnings! This is the church of fresh starts!

This Is the Church of New Beginnings

With baptism by water and the Spirit, we are "born again" and can "walk in newness of life." How much hope does that new beginning bring to one who has trudged under the burden of sin or suffered from the effects of a troubled life and dysfunctional relationships? Jesus needed no forgiveness of sin Himself or a fresh start in life, yet He was baptised, showing us in high relief the way to the new beginning He has carved for each of us.

And our new beginning doesn't just happen once. We tend to think that our baptism is our one shot at a new beginning. It isn't. We don't have just one chance. These new beginnings can happen every day! And certainly every week as we eat a small piece of bread and drink a tiny cup of water in remembrance of the gift of our perfect Saviour, who died for the express purpose of giving us as many new beginnings as we need! Jesus gives us as many new beginnings as we need.

With commitment and rejoicing in a new life

og sørgende enke; til de fordømte, de vanærede og de lidende; til de døde i krop og ånd tilbød han en ny begyndelse. Ja, endnu en svimlende underdrivelse!

Alt, hvad han sagde og gjorde, gav en ny begyndelse for hver af dem, han helbredte, velsignede, underviste og befriede for synd. Han trak sig ikke tilbage fra dem, og han vil bestemt ikke trække sig tilbage fra jer. Forestil jer i dette øjeblik at høre et af disse livgivende ord fra ham:

»Søn, dine synder forlades dig.«

»Lille pige, jeg siger dig: Rejs dig op!«

»Bliv rask.«

»Heller ikke jeg fordømmer dig. Gå, og synd fra nu af ikke mere.«

»Datter, din tro har frelst dig. Gå bort med fred!«

Frelserens ord til disse mennesker var kortfattede, men med dem malede han vidtstrakte nye horisonter af tilgivelse, helbredelse, genoprettelse, fred og evigt liv. Og den herlige nyhed er, at han tilbyder jer og mig den samme nye begyndelse. Vi kan alle få en ny begyndelse gennem og på grund af Jesus Kristus. Selv dig. Nye begyndelser er kernen i Faderens plan for sine børn. Dette er kirken med nye begyndelser! Dette er kirken, hvor man kan starte på en frisk!

Dette er kirken med nye begyndelser

Med dåb med vand og Ånden bliver vi »født på ny« og kan »leve et nyt liv«. Hvor meget håb giver denne nye begyndelse ikke en person, der har slidt under syndens byrde eller lidt under følgerne af et uroligt liv og dysfunktionelle relationer? Jesus havde ikke selv brug for syndernes forladelse eller en ny start i livet, men alligevel lod han sig døbe og viste os dermed tydeligt vejen til den nye begyndelse, han har skabt for hver enkelt af os.

Og vores nye begyndelse sker ikke kun en enkelt gang. Vi har en tendens til at tro, at vores dåb er vores eneste chance for en ny begyndelse. Det er den ikke. Vi har ikke kun én chance. Disse nye begyndelser kan ske hver dag! Og bestemt også hver uge, når vi spiser et lille stykke brød og drikker et lille bæger vand til minde om vores fuldkomne Frelseres gave, som døde med det udtrykkelige formål at give os så mange nye begyndelser, som vi har brug for! Jesus giver os lige så mange nye begyndelser, som vi har brug for.

Med forpligtelse og jubel over et nyt liv

in Christ, we can become “a new creature,” where old things pass away and all things become new. What reprieve does that kind of new dawn bring to a soul who keeps trying, through continuing to choose faith in our Redeemer’s power to heal and restore, despite the crushing setbacks of living in a fallen world? The Saviour never gave up on His commitment to fulfill the will of the Father and complete His divine atoning mission, even through pain that caused Him to tremble, to bleed from every pore, to suffer body and spirit, and to pray that the bitter cup might be removed. Again, He was demonstrating for us what faithful endurance with God looks like.

With every covenant we make and every effort we give to keep it, we can receive “a new heart” and a fuller measure of “a new spirit.” Little by little, the more we invite His goodness into our hearts and cast out the self-defeating voices in our heads, we become His people because we truly make Him our God. Jesus so keenly wants to be our King and our Shepherd and our Prince of Peace, and we can choose to make Him so in our own hearts and minds.

A New Beginning in How We View Repentance

Repentance opens the door to our new beginnings, fresh starts, and second chances. Our dear President Russell M. Nelson’s teachings have cleared up misconceptions about the divine gift of repentance, and I think we are finally beginning to grasp it.

It is exciting to hear our youth describe what repentance means to them. I recently heard a young woman say, with a smile on her face, “When I think of repentance, daily repentance, I feel incredible joy and hope. I feel the love and happiness of my Heavenly Father and my Saviour. I am not afraid to come to Heavenly Father in prayer and ask for His help with whatever I’m struggling with. I know They’re not trying to catch me doing something wrong. Their arms are open wide. This is repentance to me,” she said. This young woman understands that because of Jesus Christ, she can have new beginnings!

A New Beginning for Everyone, Every Time

Do you need a new beginning? Can you make a fresh start, even you? Think about the

i Kristus kan vi blive en »ny skabning«, hvor det gamle forsvinder, og alt bliver nyt. Hvilken lindring giver sådant et morgengry ikke en sjæl, der bliver ved med at prøve ved fortsat at vælge at tro på vores Frelzers kraft til at helbrede og genoprette, på trods af de knusende tilbageslag der kommer ved at leve i en falden verden? Frelseren svigtede aldrig sin forpligtelse til at opfylde Faderens vilje og fuldføre sin guddommelige forsoningsmission, selvom smerten fik ham til at skælve, bløde fra hver eneste pore, lide i krop og ånd og at bede om, at den bitre kalk måtte gå ham forbi. Igen viste han os, hvordan trofast udholdenhed over for Gud ser ud.

Med hver pagt, vi indgår, og hver indsats, vi gør for at overholde den, kan vi modtage »et nyt hjerte« og en mere fuldstændig »ny ånd«. Lidt efter lidt, jo mere vi inviterer hans godhed ind i vores hjerte og fordriver de selvdestruktive stemmer i vores hoveder, bliver vi hans folk, fordi vi virkelig gør ham til vores Gud. Jesus ønsker så inderligt at være vores konge, vores hyrde og vores Fredsfyrste, og vi kan vælge at gøre ham til det i vores hjerte og sind.

En ny begyndelse i vores syn på omvendelse

Omvendelse åbner døren for en ny begyndelse, en frisk start og en ny chance. Vores kære præsident Russell M. Nelsons lærdomme har ryddet op i misforståelser om den guddommelige gave, som omvendelse er, og jeg tror, at vi endelig er begyndt at forstå den.

Det er spændende at høre vores unge beskrive, hvad omvendelse betyder for dem. For nylig hørte jeg en ung kvinde sige med et smil på læben: »Når jeg tænker på omvendelse, daglig omvendelse, føler jeg en utrolig glæde og håb. Jeg føler min himmelske Faders og min Frelzers kærlighed og lykke. Jeg er ikke bange for at komme til vor himmelske Fader i bøn og bede om hans hjælp til det, jeg kæmper med. Jeg ved, at de ikke prøver at fange mig i at gøre noget forkert. Deres arme er vidt åbne. Det er omvendelse for mig,« sagde hun. Denne unge kvinde forstår, at takket være Jesus Kristus kan hun få nye begyndelser!

En ny begyndelse for alle, hver gang

Har I brug for en ny begyndelse? Kan I starte på en frisk? Tænk på de mennesker, som

people the Saviour ministered to—the people He taught, healed, raised, forgave, and restored. Was He selecting them from a particular economic class or background? Was He distinguishing between the righteous and the sinful? Was He singling people out because they were more deserving or more loved? No.

Some came to Him with great faith, believing in His power to heal—like the woman with the issue of blood, the Roman centurion whose servant was dying, the leper, Jairus, and blind Bartimaeus. They each put their faith on the line, hoping that the goodness and power of the rabbi from Nazareth would change their lives and their prospects. And He did. He let His healing flow.

But Jesus also blessed those who had wavering faith, like the father of the sick child who cried out, perhaps as you have, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.” And He even poured out compassion upon those who hadn’t sought Him at all, like the woman taken in adultery, the widow of Nain, the disabled man at the pool of Bethesda, and the man born blind. Have you felt Him going about doing good in your life even when you haven’t been seeking Him or following Him?

To each of these scriptural figures, and to all who would listen and respond, He gave a new beginning, whether it was a new life forgiven of sin or a new life healed of disease or a new life raised from death.

What does this mean for you and for me? His goodness and mercy and loving-kindness know no bounds. New beginnings are at the heart of the Father’s plan! Fresh starts are the mission of the Son! New dawns, new chapters, and new chances are the simple core of the gospel’s good news!

So, have you been away too long from your covenants to receive a new beginning? No. Have you done this or that too many times to be given another chance? No. Have you gone too far from Christ for Him to help you write a new story from here on out? No. The adversary is the only one who benefits from the idea that you’re sunk. You are not.

And new beginnings are for more than just our sins and mistakes. Through the goodness and grace of the Saviour, we can have fresh starts that propel change in old mindsets, bad habits, grumpy dispositions, negative attitudes, feelings

Frelseren tjente – de mennesker, han underviste, helbredte, oprejste, tilgav og restituerede. Valgte han dem fra en bestemt økonomisk klasse eller baggrund? Skelnede han mellem de retfærdige og de syndige? Udpegede han folk, fordi de var mere fortjenstfulde eller mere elskede? Nej.

Nogle kom til ham med stor tro og troende på hans magt til at helbrede – kvinden med blødninger, den romerske officer, hvis tjener var døende, den spedalske, Jairus, eller den blinde Bartimæus. De satte hver især deres tro på spil i håb om, at godheden og kraften hos rabbineren fra Nazaret ville ændre deres liv og deres fremtidsudsigter. Og det gjorde han. Han lod sin helbredelse strømme frit.

Men Jesus velsignede også dem med en vaklende tro, som faderen til det syge barn, der råbte, ligesom I måske har gjort: »Herre, jeg tror; hjælp min vantro.« Og han udøste endda medfølelse over dem, der slet ikke havde søgt ham, som kvinden, der var blevet grebet i ægteskabsbrud, enken i Nain, den handicappede mand ved dammen Bethesda og manden, der var født blind. Har I følt, at han færdedes og gjorde godt i jeres liv, selv når I ikke har søgt eller fulgt ham?

Hver af disse bibelske personer og alle, der ville lytte og reagere, gav han en ny begyndelse, hvad enten det var et nyt liv med syndernes forladelse, et nyt liv helbredt for sygdom eller et nyt liv oprejst fra døden.

Hvad betyder det for jer og for mig? Hans godhed, barmhjertighed og kærlighed kender ingen grænser. Nye begyndelser er kernen i Faderens plan! En frisk start er Sønnens mission! Nye dagbøger, nye kapitler og nye chancer er den enkle kerne i evangeliets gode nyheder!

Så har I været for længe væk fra jeres pagter til at modtage en ny begyndelse? Nej. Har I gjort dit og dat for mange gange til at få endnu en chance? Nej. Er I kommet for langt væk fra Kristus til, at han kan hjælpe jer med at skrive en ny historie fra nu af? Nej. Modstanderen er den eneste, der nyder godt af tanken om, at I er gået under. Det er I ikke.

Og nye begyndelser er til for mere end blot vores synder og fejltagelser. Gennem Frelserens godhed og nåde kan vi få en ny start, der fremmer forandring i gamle tankegange, dårlige vaner, gnavenhed, negative holdninger, følelser af

of powerlessness, and tendencies to blame others and avoid personal responsibility. You can actually change things about yourself that have been wearing you down for years. You can start again through the might of the Master of new beginnings. He never tires of giving new beginnings to us.

To those who are struggling with the same sin or the same setback over and over again, you keep going. He hasn't put a roadblock in front of you. He hasn't set a limit on your second chances. You press on. You keep striving. You seek help from those around you. And you trust in the new beginning that is there for you every time you turn back to your Father in sincerity of heart. Leave deliberate sinning, casual repeats, and prideful rebellion behind you, where they belong. You don't have to be who you've been before. Embrace your fresh start, your second or third or fourth—or hundredth—chance, offered to you through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful beyond description for the new beginnings I have been given and for those I will yet be offered.

Conclusion

Our Saviour uttered one final understatement, without which there would be no cause for hope or rejoicing this day. After the agonies of Gethsemane and at the conclusion of the torturous cross, He simply said, "It is finished." Messianic prophecy had been fulfilled, and the full payment of the debt for humanity's sins and suffering had been paid. He declared "finished" His infinite and eternal sacrifice. Yet His Atonement would not be complete until He Himself experienced new life on the third day, thenew beginning, as a glorified, resurrected being through the power of the Father.

Because He always did those things which pleased His Father, and because He "suffered the will of the Father in all things," you and I can have new beginnings. Please receive your new beginning, even today, right now. Jesus Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith, writing countless new chapters with us. He is the Beginning and the End—the end of our shame and suffering and the beginning of a new life in Him, letting us receive His grace, leave the past behind, and begin again with a new dawn, as many times as we need. Truly His "goodness and mercy shall follow [us] all the days of [our lives]." In the name

magtesløshed og tendenser til at bebrejde andre og undgå personligt ansvar. I kan faktisk ændre ting ved jer selv, der har slidt jer ned i årevis. I kan starte på en frisk gennem kraften fra Mesteren af nye begyndelser. Han bliver aldrig træt af at give os nye begyndelser.

Til dem, der kæmper med den samme synd eller det samme tilbageslag igen og igen, bliv ved. Han har ikke sat en vejspærring foran jer. Han har ikke sat en grænse for jeres nye chancer. Træng jer frem. Bliv ved med at stræbe. Søg hjælp fra dem omkring jer. Og stol på den nye begyndelse, der er der for jer, hver gang I vender tilbage til jeres Fader i hjertets oprigtighed. Læg bevidst synd, skødesløse gentagelser og stolte opør bag jer, hvor de hører hjemme. I behøver ikke at være den, I har været tidligere. Omfavn jeres nye start, jeres anden eller tredje eller fjerde – eller hundrede – chance, som I tilbydes gennem Jesu Kristi forsonende blod.

Jeg er ubeskriveligt taknemmelig for de nye begyndelser, jeg har fået, og for dem, jeg endnu vil få.

Konklusion

Vor Frelser fremsatte en sidste underdrivelse, uden hvilken der ikke ville være grund til håb eller glæde i dag. Efter lidelserne i Getsemane og mod slutningen af den torturerende korsfæstelse sagde han blot: »Det er fuldbragt.« Den messianske profeti var blevet opfyldt, og hele gælden for menneskehedens synder og lidelser var blevet betalt. Han erklærede sit uendelige og evige offer for »fuldbragt«. Alligevel var hans forsoning ikke fuldendt, før han selv oplevede nyt liv på den tredje dag, den nye begyndelse som et herliggjort, opstandent væsen gennem Faderens kraft.

Fordi han altid gjorde det, der behagede hans Fader, og fordi han »underkastede [sig] Faderens vilje i alt«, kan I og jeg få en ny begyndelse. Modtag jeres nye begyndelse, i dag, lige nu. Jesus Kristus er vores tros Ophavsmand og Fuldender og skriver utallige nye kapitler med os. Han er Begyndelsen og Enden – enden på vores skam og lidelse og begyndelsen på et nyt liv i ham, hvor vi kan modtage hans nåde, lægge fortiden bag os og begynde forfra med en ny dag så mange gange, som vi har brug for. Hans »godhed og troskab følger [os i sandhed] så længe [vi] lever.« I Jesu Kristi navn. Amen.

of Jesus Christ, amen.