

Jesus Christ and Your New Beginning

By Elder Patrick Kearon
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Yesu Kristo na Mwanzo Wako Mpya

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

Sisi sote tunaweza kuwa na mwanzo mpya kupitia Yesu Kristo na kwa sababu ya Yesu Kristo. Hata wewe.

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

Maandiko Yanaeleza kwa Uchache: Yesu Alizunguka Huko na Huko, Akitenda Kazi Njema

Yesu “alizunguka huko na huko akitenda kazi njema.” Tunasoma maelezo hayo pungufu katika kitabu cha Matendo ya Mitume. Ni maelezo pungufu kiasi gani! Hakika Yesu alitenda kazi njema! Yeye ni kiini hasa—na chanzo—cha wema! Alijitolea maisha Yake yote kutenda mema. Yeye ni “mwenye rehema na hisani, mvumilivu na mwenye utele,” wema usio na mwisho na rehema ya milele.

Jaribio lolote la kuelezea au kufanyia muhtasari wema Wake na rehema Yake ingekuwa ni maelezo pungufu. Kwa kweli, kama Mtume Yohana alivyojaribu kueleza, kama tungejaribu kurekodi kila uthibitisho wa wema wa Mwokozi, “hata ulimwengu wenyewe usingeweza kubeba vitabu ambavyo vinapaswa kuandikwa.”

Yesu Kristo Anatoa Mwanzo Mpya Kwa kila Mmoja wetu

Mifano mahususi tuliyonayo iliyohifadhiwa katika maandiko kuhusu Yesu “akifanya mema” inatufanya tuwe na hofu na kushangazwa, hasa tunapofikiria jinsi ambavyo ingekuwa kuwa pale, kushuhudia miujiza Yake, kupokea mafundisho Yake, na kupata uponyaji Wake. Alizungumza na waliokataliwa katika jamii, aliwagusa wagonjwa na wasafi, Alileta faraja kwa waliochoka, Alifundisha ukweli wa kukomboa, na Aliwaita

called sinners to repentance. To each leper, blind man, and adulterous woman; to the lame, the deaf, and the dumb; to every grieving mother, 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

wenye dhambi watubu. Kwa kila mwenye uko-ma, mtu kipofu, na mwanamke mzinzi; kwa viwete, viziwi, na mabubu; kwa kila mama mwenye huzuni, baba mwenye kukata tamaa, na mjane anayepitia majonzi; kwa waliohukumiwa, waliofedheheshwa, na walioteseka; kwa wafu katika mwili au wafu katika roho, kile alichofanya ni kutoa mwanzo mpya. Ndiyo, maelezo mengine pungufu!

Kila kitu alichosema na kufanya kilitoa mwanzo mpya kwa kila mmoja wao aliowaponya, kuwabariki, kuwafundisha, na kuwaondolea dhambi. Hakujiweka mbali nao, na hakika hatajiweka mbali nawe. Fikiria katika wakati huu kusikia maneno yoyote ya kuleta uzima kutoka Kwake:

"Mwanangu, umesamehewa dhambi zako."

"Msichana, nakuambia, inuka."

"Takasika."

"Wala mimi sikuhukumu: enenda zako; wala usitende dhambi tena."

"Binti, imani yako imekuponya: enenda zako kwa amani."

Maneno ya Mwokozi kwa watu hawa yalikuwa mafupi, lakini pamoja nayo alichora upeo mpya mkubwa wa msamaha, uponyaji, urejesho, amani, na uzima wa milele. Na habari njema ni kwamba, Yeye anatoa mwanzo mpya sawa kwako na kwangu. Sisi sote tunaweza kuwa na mwanzo mpya kupitia Yesu Kristo na kwa sababu ya Yesu Kristo. Hata wewe. Mwanzo mpya upo katikati ya mpango wa Baba kwa watoto Wake. Hili ni Kanisa la mwanzo mpya! Hili ni Kanisa la mwanzo msafi!

Hili ni Kanisa la Mwanzo Mpya

Kwa ubatizo wa maji na Roho, sisi "tumezaliwa mara ya pili" na kuweza "kutembea katika upya wa maisha." Ni matumaini kiasi gani yanayoletwa na mwanzo mpya kwa yule aliye-hangaika chini ya mzigo wa dhambi au kuteseka kutokana na athari za maisha yaliyojaa matatizo na mahusiano yasiyofanya kazi? Yesu hakuwa na haja ya msamaha wa dhambi Yeye Mwenyewe au mwanzo mpya katika maisha, lakini alibatizwa, akionyesha kwetu kwa uwazi njia ya mwanzo mpya aliyoiweka kwa kila mmoja wetu.

Na mwanzo wetu mpya hautokei mara moja tu. Tuna tabia ya kufikiria kwamba ubatizo wetu ni nafasi yetu moja tu ya mwanzo mpya. Sio hivyo. Hatuna nafasi moja tu. Mwanzo huu mpya unaweza kutokea kila siku! Na kwa hakika

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 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

kila wiki tunakula kipande kidogo cha mkate na kunywa kikombe kidogo cha maji katika kumbu-kumbu ya zawadi ya Mwokozi wetu mkamilifu, ambaye alikufa kwa kusudi maalum la kutupa mwanzo mpya kadiri tunavyohitaji! Yesu anatupa mwanzo mpya kadiri tunavyohitaji.

Kwa kuweka ahadi na kufurahia katika maisha mapya katika Kristo, tunaweza kuwa “kiumbe kipya,” ambapo vitu vya zamani vinapita na vitu vyote vinakuwa vipya. Ni nafuu kiasi gani ambayo aina hii ya mapambazuko mapya inaleta kwa nafsi inayotaribu, kwa kuendelea kuchagua imani katika nguvu ya Mwokozi wetu ya kupon-ya na kurekebisha, licha ya vikwazo vinavyotisha vya kuishi katika ulimwengu ulioanguka? Mwokozi hakuwahi kukata tamaa katika ahadi Yake ya kutimiza mapenzi ya Baba na kukamilisha huduma Yake ya upatanisho wa kiungu, hata kupitia maumivu ambayo yalimsababishia kutetemeka, kutokwa na damu kwenye kila kinyweleo, kuteseka mwili na roho, na kuomba kikombe chenye uchungu kiondolewe. Tena, Yeye alikuwa akionyesha kwetu jinsi ya kuvumilia kwa uaminifu.

Kwa kila agano tunalofanya na kila juhudi tunayotoa ili kulihifadhi, tunaweza kupokea “moyo mpya” na kipimo kamili cha “roho mpya.” Polepole, kadiri tunavyokaribisha wema Wake katika mioyo yetu na kufukuza mawazo hasi katika akili zetu, tunakuwa watu Wake kwa kuwa kiuhalisia tunamfanya Yeye kuwa Mungu wetu. Yesu anataka sana kuwa Mkuu wetu na Mchungaji wetu na Mfalme wa Amani, na tunaweza kuchagua kumfanya hivyo ndani ya mioyo na akili zetu.

Mwanzo Mpya kwa Jinsi Tunavyoiangalia Toba

Toba inafungua mlango wa mwanzo wetu mpya, mwanzo msafi, na nafasi za pili. Mafundisho ya mpendwa wetu Rais Russel M. Nelson yameondoa dhana potofu kuhusu zawadi ya kiungu ya toba, na nadhani hatimaye tunaanza kuielewa.

Ni furaha kusikia vijana wetu wakielezea maana ya toba kwao. Hivi karibuni nilisikia msichana akisema, akiwa na tabasamu usoni mwake, “Ninapofikiria toba, toba ya kila siku, nahisi furaha na matumaini makubwa. Ninahisi upendo na furaha ya Baba yangu wa Mbinguni na Mwokozi wangu. Siogopi kumjia Baba wa Mbinguni katika sala na kuomba msaada wake kwa

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 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!

chochote ninachokutana nacho. Najua Hawani-lengi kunikamata nikifanya kosa. Mikono yao iko wazi sana. Kwangu mimi hii ndiyo toba," alisema. Huyu msichana anaelewa kwamba kwa sababu ya Yesu Kristo, anaweza kuwa na mwanzo mpya!

Mwanzo Mpya kwa Kila Mmoja, Kila Wakati

Je, unahitaji mwanzo mpya? Je, unaweza kuwa na mwanzo msafi, hata wewe? Fikiria kuhusu watu ambao Mwokozi aliwahudumia—watu ambao aliwafundisha, aliwaponya, aliwafufua, aliwasamehe, na aliwarejesha. Je, alikuwa anawachagua kutoka kwenye daraja fulani la kiuchumi au asili fulani? Je, alikuwa anawatofautisha kati ya wema na wenye dhambi? Je, alikuwa anawachagua watu kwa sababu walistahili zaidi au walipendwa zaidi? Hapana.

Baadhi walikuja Kwake kwa imni kubwa, wakiamini katika nguvu Zake za kuponya—kwa mfano, mwanamke mwenye kutokwa na damu, mwanajeshi wa Kirumi ambaye mtumishi wake alikuwa akifa, mwenye ukoma, Yairo, au Bartimayo kipofu. Kila mmoja wao aliweka imani yao njiani, wakitumaini kwamba wema na uwezo wa rabi kutoka Nazareti utaweza kubadilisha maisha na matarajio yao. Na Yeye alifanya hivyo. Yeye aliacha uponyaji Wake uendeleo.

Lakini Yesu pia aliiwabariki wale waliokuwa na imani haba, kama baba wa mtoto mgonjwa aliyepaza sauti, labda kama ambavyo wewe umepaza sauti, "Bwana, ninaamini; nisaidie kutokuamini kwangu." Na alimimina rehema hata kwa wale ambao hawakumtafuta kabisa, kama vile mwanamke aliyekamatwa kwenye uzinzi, mjane wa Naini, mtu mlemavu katika bwawa la Bethzatha, na mtu aliyezaliwa kipofu. Je, umemhisi akifanya mema katika maisha yako hata wakati ambapo hujamtafuta au kumfuata?

Kwa kila mmoja wa wahusika kwenye maandiko, na kwa wote ambao wangesikiliza na kujibu, aliwapa mwanzo mpya, iwe maisha mapya yaliyosamehewa dhambi, au maisha mapya yaliyoponywa ugonjwa au maisha mapya yaliyofufuliwa kutoka kifo.

Hii inamaanisha nini kwako na kwangu? Wema wake na rehema na upendo wake havina mipaka. Mwanzo mpya uko katikati ya mpango wa Baba! Mwanzo msafi ni dhamira ya Mwana! Mchana mpya, sura mpya, na fursa mpya ni kiini kirahisi cha habari njema ya injili!

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 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

Hivyo, je, umekuwa mbali sana na maagano yako kiasi cha kutostahili kupokea mwanzo mpya? Hapana. Je, umefanya hiki au kile mara nyingi kiasi cha kutostahili nafasi nyingine? Hapana. Je, umepotoka mbali na Kristo kiasi cha kutoweza kuandika hadithi mpya kuanzia hapa na kuendelea? Hapana. Adui pekee ndiye anaye nufaika na wazo kwamba umezama. Haujazama.

Na mwanzo mpya ni zaidi ya dhambi zetu na makosa. Kupitia wema na neema ya Mwokozi, tunaweza kupata mwanzo mpya ambao unaleta mabadiliko katika mitazamo ya zamani, tabia mbaya, hisia za hasira, mitazamo hasi, hisia za kutokuwa na nguvu, na tabia za kulaumu wengine na kuepuka uwajibikaji binafsi. Unaweza kweli kubadilisha mambo kuhusu wewe mwenyewe ambayo yamekuwa yakikukandamiza kwa miaka. Unaweza kuanza tena kupitia uweza wa Bwana wa mwanzo mpya. Hajawahi kuchoka kutupa mwanzo mpya.

Kwa wale wanaotaabika na dhambi ileile au kushindwa kulekule mara kwa mara, endelea mbele. Hajakuwekea kizuizi mbele yako. Hajaweeka kikomo kwenye nafasi zako za pili. Endelea mbele. Endelea kujitahidi. Tafuta msaada kutoka kwa wale wanaokuzunguka. Na utumaini katika mwanzo mpya ambao uko kwako kila wakati unapomrudia Baba yako katika uaminifu wa moyo. Tuache kutenda dhambi kwa makusudi, kurudia rudia bila kuzingatia, na uasi wa kiburi nyuma yako ambapo kinapaswa kuwa. Huna haja ya kuwa kama ulivyokuwa zamani. Pokea mwanzo wako mpya, nafasi yako ya pili au ya tatu au ya nne—au ya mia—iliyotolewa kwako kupitia damu ya ukombozi ya Yesu Kristo.

nina shukrani kupita maelezo kwa mwanzo mpya niliopewa na kwa mingine mingi ambayo bado nitapewa.

Hitimisho

Mwokozi wetu alitoa maelezo ya mwisho ambayo bila hayo kusingekuwa na sababu ya tumaini au furaha siku hii. Baada ya maumivu ya Gethsemane na mwishoni mwa msalaba wenye mateso, alisema tu, "Imekwisha." Unabii wa Kimasihi ulikamilika, na malipo kamili ya deni la dhambi na mateso ya wanadamu yalikuwa yamelipwa. Alitangaza "imekwisha" dhabihu Yake isiyo na mwisho na ya milele. Hata hivyo, Upatanisho Wake haungekamilika hadi Yeye Mwenyewe alipopata uzoefu wa maisha mapya siku ya tatu, ulemwanzo mpya kama kiumbe ali-

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 of Jesus Christ, amen.

yetukuka, aliyefufuka kupitia nguvu ya Baba.

Kwa sababu mara zote Alifanya vitu ambavyo vilimpendeza Baba Yake, na kwa sababu “Aliteseka kwa mapenzi ya Baba katika vitu vyote,” wewe na mimi tunaweza kuwa na mwanzo mpya. Pokea mwanzo wako mpya, hata leo, sasa hivi. Yesu Kristo ni Mwanzilishi na Mtimizaji wa imani yetu, akiandika aya nyingi mpya pamoja nasi. Yeye ni Mwanzo na Mwisho—mwisho wa aibu zetu na mateso, na mwanzo wa maisha mapya ndani Yake, akituruhusu kuacha yaliyopita na kuanza tena kwa alfajiri mpya kadiri tuna-vyohitaji. Kwa hakika “wema na rehema Zake zitatufuata siku zote za [maisha yetu].” Katika jina la Yesu Kristo, amina.