

New Beginnings

New beginnings are evidenced by new names.

Genesis 17:5 No longer will you be called **Abram**; your name will be **Abraham**, for I have made you a father of many nations.

Genesis 17:15 God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her **Sarai**; her name will be **Sarah**.

Genesis 32:28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be **Jacob**, but **Israel**, [meaning: *he struggles with God*] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

2 Samuel 12:25 And because the Lord loved [**Solomon**], he sent word through Nathan the prophet to name him **Jedidiah**.

Revelation 2:17 “...To the one who is victorious...I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.”

God gave dozens of people significant new beginnings.

- Joseph
- Rahab
- The fishermen
- Saul/Paul

New beginnings are evident at salvation.

John 3:3 Jesus replied [to Nicodemus], “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.

Colossians 2:12 Having been buried with [Christ] in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

New beginnings are evident in our calling, our mission, and our life in the kingdom.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Acts 26:17-18 I [,God,] will rescue you [, Paul,] from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them ¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

It takes faith to walk into new beginnings.

Matthew 10:1-14 Jesus called his twelve disciples... [who he] sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. ⁹ “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.