



MAN OF GOD

RENEWED

for Life

25 DEVOTIONS

King James Version



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David R. Schmitt

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At CTA – Christ to All, our goal is
to see Christians highly effective
in their ministry so that Christ's Kingdom
is strengthened and expanded.



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RENEWED BY CHRIST

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).



Jesus brings us rest. But he also brings renewal. The one who was there at creation, filling the world with life, continues to work creatively in our lives.

Let the readings and prayers this week lead you to Jesus, the source of renewal.



DAY 1: SCENES OF RENEWAL

*He that sat upon the throne said, Behold,
I make all things new.*



Revelation 21:5

I once bought a movie I will never watch again. Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. The violence of that film was too graphic, the emotions too raw for me to ever watch it a second time.

I did view it once, however, and afterward there was a scene that played over and over in my head—the moment when Jesus speaks to his mother on the way to his crucifixion.

Jesus is carrying his cross. He is bloodied and beaten. He falls and Mary reaches out as if to catch him. She knows her son is going to die.

For a moment, we see the face of Jesus. Bruised and bloodied. And then we hear his voice. He says to Mary, “Behold, I make all things new.”

In Jesus, this moment of horrible violence will be God's most creative act. By going to death, Jesus will bring forgiveness and life. He will rise from the dead and renew all things. For you.

This scene is not in the Gospels. Gibson made it up for the movie. But scenes like this occur throughout the Gospels. Again and again, we see Jesus enter suffering to bring about renewal.

Demon possession, leprosy, blindness, prostitution, poverty, death . . . the scenes change. But the work of Jesus remains the same. Jesus enters suffering to bring about renewal.

No wonder this scene played again and again in my head. This is the mission of Jesus, even today.

Have you seen suffering? A word spoken in anger that went too deep. An illness that medicine cannot cure. A memory of abuse that will not go away.

Turn your eyes to Jesus. He is the Lord of Life. He enters into suffering to bring about renewal and there is no road of suffering he will not travel, no place of pain he will not visit to bring renewal to you.

I don't know the road you walk. Yet, even in life's smallest scenes, Jesus walks with you. You are not alone.

Christ has come to renew your life, daily and richly with the wonder of his love.

**JESUS, YOU RENEW ALL THINGS, COME INTO MY
LIFE AND MAKE EVERYTHING NEW. AMEN.**

DAY 2: LIFE-RENEWING LOVE

But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.



Luke 15:20

Who knew regret could be so heavy? For Greg, it got heavier every year.

Five years ago, his dad died. A tragic accident on the highway. But the accident wasn't as tragic as the years that led up to it. That's what kept Greg up at night.

He and his dad never really got along. Greg had intentionally fought with him over the years. Managing money. Raising kids. The two were locked in an endless battle of the wills.

The accident ended all of that. It ended the fighting. But it gave Greg an unending burden.

With his dad gone, there was no chance for reconciliation. Not even a simple "I'm sorry." So Greg lived with memories he could never change, words he could never say, and guilt that just wouldn't go away.

How do you bear the burden of a past you cannot change? Jesus offers an answer in the parable of the prodigal son.

The younger son left home with everything. And he returned with nothing. Nothing but regret. Words. Actions. You name it. He had done it. Who knew regret could be so heavy? He had words he wanted to say. Words he thought would make it better.

But when his father saw him, he didn't wait for his son to speak. He ran and embraced him. His love had the first and the last word. In that moment, a lifetime of regret met an eternity of love. The father's love brought new life to an old story of a lost son.

God's love is life renewing because it doesn't depend on what we say or do but on what Jesus said and did for us. Jesus died under the tragedy of our sin so that he might rise and create new life for us in himself.

We all carry burdens of regret. Words. Actions. You name it. We've done it. God's love, however, brings renewal out of regret.

When we face things we cannot change, God comes to offer us one thing that never changes. His love.

**FATHER, FORGIVE THE THINGS I CANNOT
CHANGE. RECEIVE AND RENEW ME WITH
YOUR UNCHANGING LOVE. AMEN.**