



**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

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Happy New Year!

Many see January 1st as a new beginning; a clean slate; a fresh start. It provides an opportunity to close the door on the past and step into a new future. One of the most popular questions this time of year is, "What is your new year's resolution?"

The truth is that only God offers us the opportunity to start over. When we come to Christ, we are born again. "The old has gone, the new is here." (II Corinthians 5:17) But it's not only at salvation; —, our entire walk with God is about letting go of the failures of the past and moving forward into newness of life. We don't have to be captive to old sins, old habits, old mistakes. As John reminds us, when we confess our sins, God not only forgives us, but he purifies us from unrighteousness (I John 1:9); — he wipes the slate clean!



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Who we were and what we've done does not need to weigh us down. Just ask the apostle Paul! Because of God's grace, we can start anew.

What is your January 7th resolution — or your 3:30 resolution? At any time, we can make a *right now* resolution. As of right now, your past is in the past. "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace." (Luke 8:48)

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**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

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It is impossible for any of us, born into the sinful nature, to live a perfect life here on Earth. While we must never become complacent about sin or downplay it when it creeps into our lives, we must also not live under a cloud of guilt and condemnation over it. That guilt is what separates us from God; like Adam and Eve, we hide from him, ashamed of what we have done and afraid of the consequences. God's plan and desire is for us to come to him, acknowledge our guilt and accept his forgiveness and cleansing. Once we do so, guilt has no power over us, and we can walk in the peace and joy that God has called us to.

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