

Greetings to all those who are renewing the Spirit that is within them,

**SCRIPTURE:**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (MSG) – Larger reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

*“Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it!”*

**STORY** as told by Ian L. Wilson:

London businessman Lindsay Clegg told the story of a warehouse property he was selling. The building had been empty for months and needed repairs. Vandals had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and strewn trash around the interior.

As he showed a prospective buyer the property, Clegg took pains to say that he would replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage.

"Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; I want the site."

**REFLECTION:**

It is that time when resolutions are made as I shared yesterday. All of them backed up by good intentions. Lose weight, exercise more, eat better, spend more time with spouse and family, be kinder, spend less, give more to the less fortunate, read more, watch TV less, or whatever is on your list. Each and everyone one of them speak to the basic desire to be better.

A t-shirt spoke volumes. It simply read: “Under Construction”. I love it because that is the reality of our lives. We are under construction ... but who is doing the reconstruction work?

Resolutions normally fail. Within the first 30-days of the new year we have started to slip and the slippery slop only becomes steeper as we return to our old habits, easier patterns, lazy commitments. Therein lies the problem. WE are the ones trying to bring about the change.

Paul writes in Corinthians that God is the one who makes the old life different. Not something that is just a remodeling of the old person, but something totally new. God is the one who makes all things new. The renovations are under God’s direction following God’s design. Our attempts to remake our lives will fail. When our attempts or even our design for the new self are compared with what God has in mind we discover how trivial they really are. In truth, as the story states, God wants the site not the building. He will bring about something that we could never imagine.

**QUOTE:**

*“You cannot be as E-ffective when you are IN-fected.” – Johnnie Dent Jr.*

**PRAYER:**

God help us to trust you with the site. Tear down and build new. This is our resolution for the New Year ... to be under construction ... your construction. Amen.

And the faith journey continues, Pastor Jim  
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***Scholars from the east sought him; Herod sought him; men and women throughout the ages have sought him ... and all the time he is right there in plain sight. It kind of depends on what or who you are looking for.***