



Marking Time

When my children were younger, they wondered aloud one New Year's Eve, "*Why do we only celebrate the changing of the years? Why not the months, the weeks or even each new day?*" I considered their insightful question, and for a few months, we put a new plan into practice. At the end of January, we celebrated *New Month's Eve*, cleverly coined, and wished one another "Happy New Month!" as the calendar flipped to February. And on it went, until about May or so, when we again let the months change without commentary or celebration. And we never managed to celebrate a New Week's Eve; it's a lot to track. *New Week's Day – the Lord's Day – continued to be specially noted, however.*

From time to time, I remember that conversation and those early intentions. I still find myself marking time this way. I find it gives me a more regular opportunity to celebrate a fresh start or reflect on past accomplishments, even regrets. Scripture tells us that His mercies are new every morning; great is His faithfulness. It is good to reflect, even daily, on all the ways we see God's grace and mercy at work in our lives, directing or reorienting our steps.

As you begin a new year of engaging daily with God's Word, maybe for the first time, or perhaps the 50th or more, I pray that you will savor each day and allow time to consider your own days, weeks, and months. Should you get out of step with your daily routine, begin again. Acknowledge it and jump back in. Each new day is a gift and an invitation to meet with God.

Happy New Quarter! We are so glad to be on the journey with you.

By Gail A. Martin

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