

# New Millennium New Life

By: Matthew Hohnberger

Time has passed and many in Christendom are focused on the coming of Christ – more than ever before! Even the world is turning its eyes to see what will happen. Will Jesus come? But are we ready for His return? Are we prepared for what may come before us in this new millennium? Or are our lives so full of duties that the Lord is crowded out? If the things of this world crowd Him out of our lives now, how do we expect to suddenly have room for Him when He comes?

The start of a new year is often marked with new resolutions, new directions, and new decisions. We now face the turn of a millennium. What an opportunity to make a new resolve – one that will make a difference in our lives, marriages, friendships and the world – something that will mark well a new millennium! “How long halt ye between two opinions?” 1 Kings 18:21. Are you ready to let Jesus crowd out everything else in your life? It is the devoting of ourselves to the preparations needed for the union of the Bridegroom with His bride that is required. Before marriage,

much time is needed for the couple to be together in order for love to grow, and for the communication skills to develop so strongly that nothing and nobody can separate them. A bonding must occur that is stronger than steel.

This is not something that just happens. It requires time, effort, union, communion and commitment. Are you ready and willing to give your personal relationship with God the elements needed to grow? If you were willing to give them for a human union, how much more so should you be willing to give them for a heavenly one!

It now lies within our breasts to give all and to give up all. The key word is commitment. We have a choice to be either wise or foolish virgins. The call went forth, “Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” Matthew 25:6. That same call is ringing down through the ages to us today. Arise and trim your lamps for the marriage supper of the Lamb is near – even at the door! Yet the question that comes bounding back is, How do I? “Not by might, nor by

power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of Hosts.” Zechariah 4:6. It is an attitude of, “I can of my own self do nothing.” It is in and through Christ alone that we are enabled to prepare and make way for the Bridegroom. Knowledge alone is not enough. Once we realize our condition, we must act upon that knowledge. This will first require **time**.

God gave every one of us time, and because He is fair He gave us all the same amount of time. It is in this area that Satan has done a masterful job of separating us from Christ. He has us running, sprinting, and spinning faster and faster until we are dizzy, distracted and confused. He has done his job at the head of the stream diverting and stealing our time. He knows that if he is successful with those tactics, he then has us at his disposal. When a battle is underway and the enemy has gained ground, we must regroup and attack back in the most vital area. The area of time is where our effort is needed most.

After years of pursuing what our present society would call the “American Dream” – fun, fame and fortune, Solomon said in the end: “All is vanity.” Ecclesiastes 1:14. So we must put away the useless and cling to the useful. We need time with God, submitting ourselves in prayer to listen, hear and then follow His guidance implicitly: It takes **dedicated time** – not something that can be rushed over, pushed through, or fit in. That means everything else must revolve around our time with God.

The cry goes out, “But this is fanatical!” The reply of the Reformers of old was, “I’d rather be called a fanatic by thee and a friend by He.” This is what was required in my own life.

My parents jumped off the “roller coaster” seventeen years ago. While growing up I thought I would never get pulled into riding such a torture machine. However, as the years developed into two decades I started

a business of my own selling country and wilderness properties, while at the same time teaching people how to live a slower lifestyle. Could I get caught in the rat race by doing this? Yes, indeed! Satan’s plan works so well! I became so absorbed in becoming successful and helping others that I left God out, bit by bit; oh, I had my prayers and studies in the morning and family worship morning and evening. I had fallen into the form of godliness, but I had no real power. When

there is no power or electricity, the lights go out! I had no oil in my lamp. It was a scary thought to think that I had become a foolish virgin. But knowledge alone is only half of the equation. I needed to do something about it – something radically different!

When I boiled it all down, time with my best friend Jesus was what was needed most. Not to gain more knowledge but to gain the connection and cooperation that brings the power I needed. So I dedicated

myself to spending that needed time with Him. I scheduled that time into my day and allowed nothing to take it from me. I typed up a card for myself and placed it on my desk at the office where I would notice it often throughout the day. It said, “**Qualify, Prioritize, Delegate and Achieve Balance.**” And with God’s help, that is exactly what I did. In the beginning nothing radical happened. I did not become an Enoch, Moses or Paul overnight – no, a long way from that. However, I made a decision for the right and acted upon it.

It is incredible how God works! The stress I had been under began to evaporate. The problems and difficulties I faced on a daily basis began to dissolve – because I was connected and listening to the One who had the power and solutions for my every trial. It was imperceptible, and only in hindsight was God’s hand seen. In the moment I relied upon Him in faith, trusting that He had the answer that was needed. This is



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what makes the difference between a wise and foolish virgin. “The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up ... They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live.” COL 4:11.

Toady we as Christians are dead – fast asleep! We desperately need new life – a transformed life – which is found only in Christ Jesus. The vital decision now rests upon our shoulders. Will we let the light of His glory – His character – shine forth in us, thus lighting the path to the Bridegroom’s home, to the city of God, to the marriage supper of the Lamb? It is our choice. What is your decision?

In this new millennium, in this new year, will you resolve to commit yourself to a new life, which will utterly transform your marriage, family and friendships? Perhaps you are saying, “I will be the only one!” Christ’s reply is, “I walked this world alone for you. I went to the cross alone for you and I did it all out of love-voluntarily for you and you alone.” How can we reject what Jesus has done for us? Let us not run or move out of fear or emotion but by the direction of His Spirit alone. This direction will be found only through spending time with Him. If we act out of fear or emotion, it will in time fizzle out, die and end in failure. Deep commitment is required.

My decision is to live by principle – whatever the cost. God and I will control and operate my life. Sounds simple? Not in the least! Nowadays people’s lives are dictated by circumstance. Everything in life is designed to keep us distracted, busy and pushed, so we have no time to trim our lamps and receive a fresh

supply of oil. Let me share with you what I had to do:

First, I had to **qualify** whether the situations that crossed my path were from God or man. Then, I had to make the tough decisions: Who are the best people to work with and devote my time to? Do they have the funds needed? Are they serious? How soon are they going to buy? Is what they are looking for out there? Should they be directed to another area? Or should I direct them to another broker?

You will have to answer similar questions when you are faced with projects, tasks, situations and decisions: What activities and tasks will I engage in? Do I have the time to fill this need? Do I have the skills to rightly accomplish this project? Remember, if we try to do everything, our Christian experience will putrefy – like I was told as a boy: “It is better to finish a few things well and completely, than to do many things partially.” Qualifying is not easy, but it is an absolute necessity.

Second, I had to decide who and what were my **priorities** in life. For me it was my God, my family, my job and then relationships. This order then had to be followed as firmly as the needle to the pole. Ask yourself, Is God first and foremost in my life? Is time with my friends more important than time with my God and my family? Should my business or job have higher priority than communication time with my spouse? Is having a higher paying job in the city more important than having a home out in the country? Has winning souls for Heaven taken the place of winning my children’s souls for eternity? Priorities. What is most important in your life?

Moses was faced with similar questions. He was called by God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. But was leading them out of Egypt more important than gaining victory over his temper? God saw that it was more of a priority to place Moses in the wilderness, herding sheep for forty years to teach him the

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important lesson of maintaining a vital connection with Him than immediately freeing Israel from slavery. God is the same today as He was in Moses' day. He is more interested in character development than in work – such as church activities or estate development.

At times this will require **delegating**. For me it meant giving work to my secretary, or having my clients meet me at my house instead of me running unnecessarily to them. Sometimes it meant involving my clients in screening a home or property before I went out with them.

The same can be done in your home. Are you a “Martha” – running and doing everything – while the children play? Delegate things to them. Give them jobs and responsibilities. Involve them in the running of the home or the completion of a project. Let one fold the laundry while another one sweeps the floor and you wash the windows. Be a servant, but be a wise one. Ask God what He would have you do. Do not just talk to Him in the morning and then go about your day. Keep Him by your side, communicating with Him about everything.

And finally, achieve **balance**. This is the hardest of all! I am still striving to find it, but with God by my side I know I will find the solution and gain the victory. This matter is very individualistic. Everyone has different talents, personalities, strengths and weaknesses, but we are all given the same amount of **time**. Rightly used, miracles will be forthcoming. Take your situation to the Lord. Lay it before Him and ask for His advice. “Lord, what is the **balance** for me between work and rest, fruitless activity and productivity? In each situation, are work or family needs greater? Lord, what are Your priorities for me? Are You laying this on me? Should I do this myself or delegate it to someone else?” God, our personal Friend, is anxiously waiting – yes, longing – to help us. Seek Him and He will be found. See 2 Chronicles 15:2 and Jeremiah 29:13.

When we as a people do this, and gain an experience such as Enoch, Moses, and Paul had, the call will

go forth to God's people: “Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.” Luke 14:23. God is preparing His workers, and when the time comes, they will spring up all over! People will say, “Where did they come from?” In Jesus' day they came from the humble Galilean hills, the wilderness area, the secluded retreats. Just so today – God's army will come forth prepared to finish the work. Why? Because it will be composed of those who will have committed their lives one hundred percent to the moment-by-moment leadership of Jehovah.

Do you want to be one of God's chosen people? Then start by seeking directions from the One who has infinite wisdom. Start today! Do not put it off. Begin **now**, and you will one day hear “as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering saying, “Alleluia:” for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.” Revelation 19:6-7.

Let us all choose to experience a new life now and for all the millenniums to come!

## Power for Living



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