

**A new beginning has the \_\_\_\_\_ at its core**

“News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.” Acts 11:22-23

“Grace, like water, flows to the lowest parts.”  
Philip Yancey

God is not mainly looking for great gifts. He is looking for great faith that is willing to be filled with the Holy Spirit and then does good.

**A new beginning by God’s hand will \_\_\_\_\_  
your life (when we believe the Gospel and turn to Jesus)**

“Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, <sup>26</sup>and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.” Acts 11:25-26 NIV

“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3-4



“The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”  
*Acts 11:21 NIV*

“All of God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose he has given them.”  
***Oswald Chambers***

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23 NIV

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9 NIV

## Our God is a God of \_\_\_\_\_

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”  
Acts 2:42-47 NIV

Everywhere you look in the Bible you see God as the beginning and the ONE who creates new beginnings.

- “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19 NIV
- “He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:5 NIV
- “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” Isaiah 65:17 NIV
- “Let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

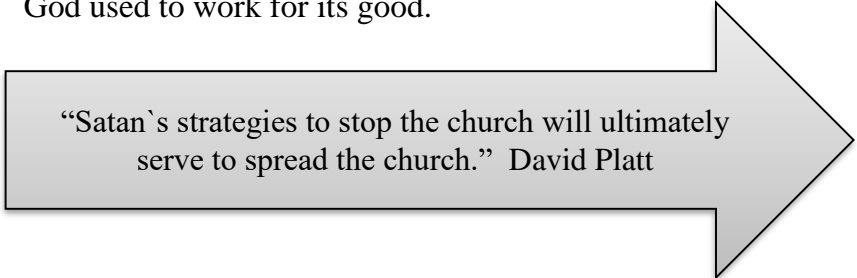
## A new beginning is often brought by \_\_\_\_\_

“On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” Acts 8:1 NIV

“Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word [...]”  
Acts 11:19 NIV

“It was strictly forbidden to preach to other prisoners. It was understood that whoever was caught doing this received a severe beating. A number of us decided to pay the price for the privilege of preaching, so we accepted their [the communists'] terms. It was a deal; we preached and they beat us. We were happy preaching. They were happy beating us, so everyone was happy.” Richard Wurmbrand

What was meant to hurt the church when persecution started, God used to work for its good.



“Satan’s strategies to stop the church will ultimately serve to spread the church.” David Platt

## A new beginning happens when God’s \_\_\_\_\_ is present

“Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.” Acts 11:20-21

Someone crossed all the barriers separating unreached people from the gospel, they broke through every wall raised over the course of hundreds of years and spoke the gospel to the Gentiles.