

## Restore to Restart

### **RESTART: YOUR LIFE. THIS YEAR.**

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*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Computer problems are the worst. I love technology when everything works as it should. Tasks are made simpler. With a few lines of text typed on a soft touch keyboard and a few taps on the trackpad or clicks of a button on a mouse you can send a message to thousands of people in many parts of the world. What once took weeks to deliver (if at all) can now be accomplished at the speed of the internet. That is when everything works!

Occasionally computer systems bog down and error messages pop up on the screen. The operating system fails and the hard drive crashes unexpectedly. That is when you want to throw out the technology and drag out an old typewriter or just use pen and paper. Of course, we cannot go back to old methods and the slower communication of the past, so we must resort to searching for the operator’s manual, calling a techie friend for advice, or (as a last option) contacting tech support which is answered by an English challenged person in a foreign country who asks the prescribed mundane questions one at a time, “Is the system plugged into a power supply?” — “Is the power indicator light illuminated?”

If the problem with the computer is severe it may require a complete system restoration. The original startup disk is required and a clean sweep of internal memory is performed. After a few hours (or days) the machine starts up like a new machine, ready for a multitude of downloadable updates, and an empty hard drive necessitating the restoration of all the programs you need to conduct your normal business with the computer. If all goes well it is really kind of nice to be able to start fresh, selecting the needed programs and abandoning those that previously took up space but were never used. It cleaned out the “cookies”, the memory hogging utilities that worked in the background, and the history of the operations of many programs.

That is the kind of “Restart” we need this year in our lives! A total restoration!

Fortunately, a spiritual restoration doesn’t require getting instructions from someone who doesn’t speak your language, one who doesn’t know your system operation or your failures that led to this crash. Our support center is more than “state of the art;” it is out of this world. We don’t need to go through the chain of subordinate staff to find the answers; we have direct access to the design engineer, the one who created all of our systems. When restoration is required he will personally make a house call to meet with you, take you back to the beginning and provide a full system restoration.

When God restores a soul the clutter of past experience is cleaned out. The executable action was your faith in the Creator, and His infinite ability to know our frame. Our repentance brought in the forgiveness utility and the initiation of baptism executed in Jesus name launched the New Birth Restart. Total restoration results in *“old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17)*. The history of sin is gone. There is no more “memory hogs” or draining baggage of malware working in the background of your life. The Holy Spirit provides the power for the reboot to a new and fresh life in Christ Jesus.

It is time for a *Restoration Restart!*

#### **Scripture:**

*“By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear” (Hebrews 8:13 NIV).*