



I never cared much for cats or New Year's celebrations. Then I married a girl with two cats and who loves — more than any other holiday — New Year's Eve.

I always found it a bit crude and arbitrary. Why use January 1 as the day to pursue a new goal, make a change, or reevaluate your life? She told me once that it felt like a birthday celebration for everyone, all on the same day. And she was right. There's an energy on New Year's Eve that is palpable and inspiring as everyone watches the clock and counts down each second, breathless, together.

The moments before the countdown create a setting where reflection, anticipation, gratitude, and hope are nearly unavoidable. Needless to say, I've completely bought in, and on December 31 you will always find me staying up late, asking everyone around me about the most meaningful moments of the past year and about all the hopes and dreams that lie ahead.

The Christian Scriptures are clear: God likes new things. John hears, "Behold, I am making everything new!" (Revelation 21:5). The prophet Isaiah hears, "Behold, I am doing a new thing...do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). The writer of Lamentations says God's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22) and Paul writes that through baptism, "we might walk in the newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

I love these verses, particularly, because they are not about what God has done or will do, but about what God is doing right now — in these moments, as we count down each second.

Sure — January 1, in many ways, is just another day on the calendar. But it's also the start of a new calendar year, full of hope and possibilities, a chance to leave certain things behind and to make everything new. Bring on the confetti.

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