

## God's New Year

**Tanya Moore**

There is a rule written somewhere that Christmas letters cannot be depressing. So I didn't write one this year. Nobody wants to hear it was a hard year and I certainly didn't want to write about it.

Just so you know and don't get too bummed out, there were many good things in the year. They just didn't affect me like the hard ones did.

The hard things made me claw and scratch my way through Scripture and call out "Lord, Jesus" a lot. I was begging for, and trying very hard to find, joy. It eluded me consistently.

I'm still working on examining my circumstances and my reactions. I trust that the hard things are allowed by God – that they are really a gift from Him. Joy and peace can be mine even in hard times. I can be hopeful and confident instead of hopeless. If I didn't have the Holy Spirit living in me those positive thoughts would be so pie-in-the-sky. But they are true, and I can cling to them even when it's very hard.

I am wishing all of us a New Year filled with the light of God.

And I pray for us:

"I ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory – to make us intelligent and discerning in **knowing Him personally**, our eyes focused and clear, so that we can see exactly what he is calling us to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him – endless energy, boundless strength!" (Ephesians 1: 19, *The Message*. I took the liberty of changing "you" to "us").



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