

Answer Key

Introduction:

- License
- Practice

Point 1

- Struggles
- Nature

Four ways:

- Identity
- Muscles
- Dependence
- Transforming

Point 2

- Braces
- Gradually

Question:

- “What is God teaching me through this?”

Point 3

- Struggle
- Notice
- Evidence

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God’s Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **“God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!”**

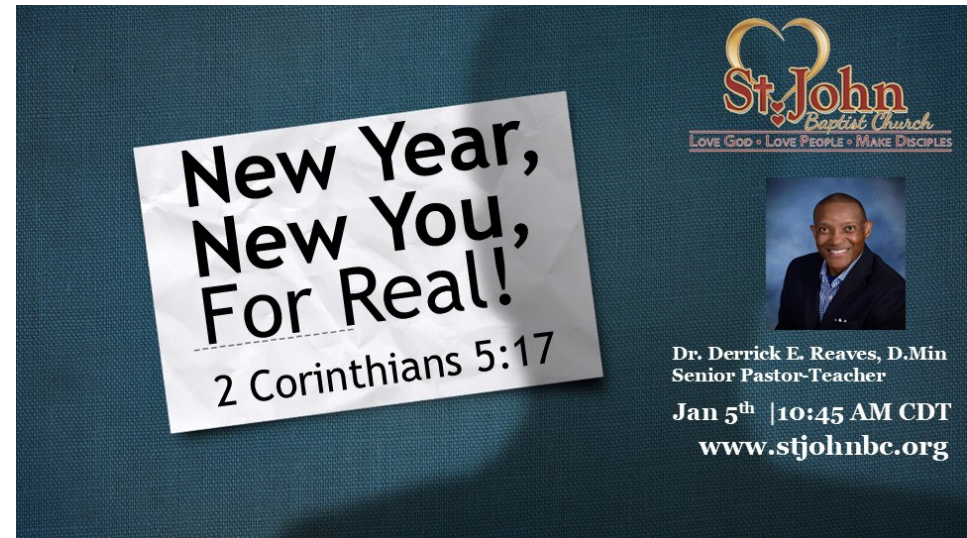
If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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Sermon Notes



The graphic features a dark blue background. In the center, a white, torn-edge paper tag is pinned, displaying the text "New Year, New You, For Real!" in a large, bold, black font, with "2 Corinthians 5:17" written below it in a smaller font. In the top right corner, the St. John Baptist Church logo is visible, featuring a heart shape and the text "St. John Baptist Church" and "LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • MAKE DISCIPLES". Below the logo is a portrait of Dr. Derrick E. Reaves, D.Min. In the bottom right corner, the text reads: "Dr. Derrick E. Reaves, D.Min Senior Pastor-Teacher", "Jan 5th | 10:45 AM CDT", and "www.stjohnbc.org".

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

January 5, 2025

(Answer key located on back page)

Introduction

A father teaching his son to drive learned that getting a _____ didn't make him an expert - it gave him the right to _____ becoming one.

1. Purposeful Pressure (2 Corinthians 5:17a)

Being "in Christ" doesn't eliminate our _____, it transforms their _____ and purpose.

The purposeful pressure works in four ways:

1. Confirms our new _____
2. Develops our spiritual _____
3. Deepens our _____ on God
4. Demonstrates God's _____ work

2. Purposeful Pressure (2 Corinthians 5:17b)

Like getting _____, the moment they're put on, you're in the process of having straight teeth, but the actual straightening happens _____ and sometimes painfully.

When challenges arise, ask:

"_____?"

3. Present Process (2 Corinthians 5:17c)

Before Christ, you didn't _____ against sin -- you went along with it.

Now you _____ and resist it.

Every struggle you face is _____ that the "new you" is fighting against the old patterns.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What areas of my life am I experiencing purposeful pressure?
2. How have I seen God's progressive pattern of transformation in my life?
3. What old patterns am I still struggling to leave behind?

COMMITMENT:

Today, I commit to:

KEY VERSE TO REMEMBER:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Next Steps:

1. Identify one area where you need to embrace God's purposeful pressure.
2. Share your growth journey with a trusted friend or small group.
3. Create a daily reminder of your new identity in Christ.
4. Schedule regular time for personal reflection on your transformation.

