

## **Newness and Spirit**

### **January 4, 2026**

As you participate, remember that this is a space to listen, reflect, and grow together. There is no pressure to have the “right” answers. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide both the conversation and your heart.

### **Open up together:**

When is the church at its best?

### **Romans 7:6**

*“But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.”*

As you read this theme scripture, what stands out to you?

### **Read the following scriptures aloud together:**

#### **Romans 7:6**

But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit**, and not in the old way of the written code.

#### **Isaiah 43:18-19**

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a **new thing!** Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in wasteland.

#### **John 3:3**

Jesus replied, Very truly I tell you, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again.

#### **John 3:5**

Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

## **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

### **Reflect & Share:**

Use a few of these questions to guide discussion:

- Growing up, how was the Holy Spirit talked about, or not talked about, in your faith experience?
- What does *"newness in the Spirit"* mean to you after hearing this message?
- Romans 7:6 contrasts serving in the *"new way of the Spirit"* versus the *"old way of the written code."* What differences stand out to you between those two ways of living?
- Why do you think God's idea of newness is about remaking us, not just improving us?
- Corinthians 5:17 says we *are* a new creation, not that we are becoming one someday. What is challenging—or freeing—about believing that is already true of you?
- What stood out to you about the role of the Holy Spirit as God's personal presence in our lives?
- As you begin this new year, where might God be inviting you to rely more on the Spirit rather than your own effort or past patterns?

### **Pray Together:**

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal where He is inviting you into *newness* this year.

### **Personal Invitation:**

Read a short passage slowly each day and ask, *"Holy Spirit, what are You showing me?"*

Come back next time ready to share what you noticed, not what you mastered.