



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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A Truly New Life!

A man was selling an old warehouse which had been empty for months and needed repairs. Gangs had damaged the doors, smashed the windows, and thrown trash everywhere. As he showed a prospective buyer the property, he promised to replace the broken windows, bring in a crew to correct any structural damage, and clean out the garbage. "Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. I don't want the building; **I want the site!**"

Compared with **the renovation God has in mind for us**, our efforts to improve our lives—**our new year resolutions**—are as trivial as sweeping a warehouse that is slated for the wrecking ball! When we truly become a Christian, **our old life is over, He makes all things new.** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). **All He wants is the site and the permission to build** and He will make us a new creation—**radically changed by the Holy Spirit!** We will be "**born again**" (John 3:3). This is not a minor modification, this is a **miraculous major overhaul!**

A machinist at Ford Motor Company in Detroit became a Christian and was baptized. As **the Holy Spirit renewed** this man he was convicted of his need to make restitution for some parts and tools he had stolen from the company. So the next morning he brought all the tools and parts back to his employer. He explained how he had just become a Christian and had been baptized. Then he asked for his foreman's forgiveness. Mr. Ford, who was visiting a plant in Europe at the time, was cabled with the details of the matter and asked his response. Mr. Ford immediately returned a cable with his decision: "**Dam up the Detroit River, and baptize the entire city!**"