

## A NEW HEART

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:24-28

December 5, 2020

Message: **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you. I will remove your stony heart from your body and replace it with a living one.  
You will be my people, and I will be your God.**

### Ezekiel 36: 26, 28b (CEB)

As I survey the world around me now, I see so much anger and hurt, pain and weariness. Some of us are angry at being perceived or labeled in certain ways, some of us are hurt by many various injustices, some of us are experiencing pain at being confronted by our own flawed humanness, some of us are experiencing pain at having our humanness discounted, and many of us are just so very weary of all of it. Contemplating this devotional, I am cognizant that I am writing from a confusing and sometimes painful present for a time in an unknown future seeking words of hope from the past. And I do find much hope in these promises from the book of Ezekiel. When we feel separated – not only from our brothers and sisters, but also from right relationship with our God – by differences, verse 24 promises that we will be gathered together from different places and brought to fertile ground. When the dust and mess and busyness of the world are clouding and depressing our souls, verses 25-27 offer assurance that we will be sprinkled with water that cleans and refreshes, and our spirits renewed. Not just renewed, but a complete transplant of our hardened and rebellious hearts; replaced with a living, loving heart, and the very spirit of God. And the single greatest promise in this passage appears at the end of verse 28, “...you will be my people, and I will be your God.” Glory! I pray that we remember in the midst of each small or large pain, trial, and struggle, there are always promises of hope and restoration within the word of God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for your promises to restore our weary, polluted, hardened hearts with living hearts powered by your spirit. Help us to reflect and project your loving care to all. Amen.

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