



Revelation 1:8- *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was and who is to come, the almighty."*

Happy New Year to everyone! I know you have heard that expression for several days now but we should always desire the best for of each other at all times. The Lord certainly expects his children to be the messengers of good news and the doers of good deeds. Periodically, we need that refreshing, cleansing, renewing atmosphere that gives us the psychological edge to get off "square one", to move away from past disappointments and to reach foreword with confidence. As you know, we are so easily derailed from the tracks that lead toward self-improvement. We often keep looking until we find a good reason to give up, bail out or just quit. And in the process, we can always find someone, or something to blame for our lack of perseverance and insufficient endurance. Basically, we just tend to be "wimpy", "weak kneed", "spineless". I shudder to think of how many times I have failed the Lord in so many areas of my life. And each time I had a good reason, in my estimation, to do as I chose to do instead of doing as I know I should have done. Sound familiar? That's why a new year, a new day, a new beginning has such appeal. God is the kind of God that never fails nor hesitates to accept our renewed efforts to undo wrongs, straighten crooked paths, and rebuild torn relationships.

How refreshing to know that God not only controls the present, but manipulated the past and also shapes the future while we sleep. All three, past, present and future are defined by Him because he is not limited by nor influenced by time. But rather, all three are restricted and maneuvered by his will. That knowledge relieves us of the responsibility of excessive worry and anxiety over what has happened, what is happening and what may happen. As Christians we can confidently approach each day with all of its uncertainties knowing that we don't have to have all the answers to our questions nor all the solutions to our problems. Why burden yourself with all that weight? Why worry about what might go wrong? Something always will; that is the nature of life. The success of lives is not based upon the number of things we get right but rather upon our response when we get them wrong. God is the God of those that try and fail repeatedly, but keep trying again and again and again, because they know there is no one else to turn to for help. No matter what happens to us today, what happened to us yesterday, or what will happen to us tomorrow, our destiny lies with the Lord.